

Sidon commemorates slain leader

SIDON (R) — More than 15,000 people marched silently through the southern city of Sidon Saturday in memory of Sunni Muslim leader Maatrouf Saad, whose violent death a decade ago helped spark Lebanon's civil war. Muslim and Christian notables led marchers with portraits of Saad, former Egyptian leader Gamal Abdul Nasser, and Saad's son and political heir Mustafa, a fierce opponent of Israeli occupation who was badly injured in a car bomb in January. They also carried banners with slogans urging unity between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims and Christians in Sidon. Saad, 66, head of the city's "Popular Nasserist Movement", was shot by an unknown gunman on Feb. 26, 1975 as he led a demonstration by fishermen and their supporters against the granting of exclusive fishing rights to a big company. His death eight days later heightened tension and brought violent clashes in Sidon between the army and leftist militiamen.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، للراي

Strauss reiterates stand on arms

BONN (R) — West German conservative leader Franz-Josef Strauss Saturday repeated his demand that Bonn should allow the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia. In an interview with the Sunday newspaper, Welt am Sonntag, the day after his return from a visit to Israel, the right-wing Bavarian prime minister said Saudi Arabia felt "relegated" to a secondary position and as a consequence West German exports at large could be affected. Mr. Strauss was strongly criticised by Israelis before and during his four-day visit for his support for the sale of West German Leopard-2 battle tanks to Saudi Arabia. He said he told the Israelis that "we all have an interest in maintaining the Saudis as a factor of stability in the Gulf region." French, U.S. and British tanks were just as deadly as German ones and Riyadh had a right to know whether West Germany was a reliable trading partner or not, he said.

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Egyptian journalists ban Israeli ties

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's press union has banned its members from visiting Israel or cooperating with Israeli journalists "until the peace process is completed and Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territories," a union spokesman said Saturday. He said the decision was taken following Friday's election of the union's new president, Ibrahim Nafeh, board chairman and editor-in-chief of the semi-official daily newspaper Al-Ahram.

Diouf in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — President Abdou Diouf of Senegal arrived here Saturday on a four-day visit for talks with President Hosni Mubarak and other officials on Middle Eastern and African affairs. Mr. Diouf made no statement on his arrival and official talks between the two leaders are scheduled for Sunday.

Lebanese soldier loses legs in blast

BEIRUT (R) — A Lebanese army soldier lost both legs Saturday when the car he was driving blew up near Beirut's horse-race track, security sources said. At least one other person was injured in the blast, they added.

4 Jews arrested at Haram Al Sharif

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli security forces Friday arrested four Jews trying to enter Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif, police sources said. The sources said guards at one of the gates leading to the holy site detained the four. It was not immediately clear whether they were planning an attack. Last year, Jewish extremists twice planned to blow up the Mosque of Omar, situated in the Haram Al Sharif. The mosque is Islam's third holiest site.

20 die in Indian election violence

NEW DELHI (R) — Twenty people were killed Saturday and about 1,000 arrested in India's eastern Bihar state on the first day of elections, the United News of India (UNI) reported. The news agency said a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized by security forces, placed on alert to try and ensure peaceful voting for a state assembly.

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Sri Lankan rebels say 40 soldiers killed

NEW DELHI (R) — A Tamil guerrilla press release claimed Saturday that 40 soldiers were killed in a gunbattle with separatist guerrillas in Sri Lanka Friday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. It quoted the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front attacked a police station at Kilinochchi in northern Sri Lanka. It gave no further details.

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Israelis storm Maarake, detain 350 Berri threatens attacks against Israeli villages in retaliation to raids

TEIR DIBBA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Hundreds of Israeli troops in tanks and other armoured vehicles swept into the national resistance stronghold of Maarake in Israel's biggest raid to date on a South Lebanese village and Lebanese cabinet minister Nabih Berri said villages in northern Israel would be attacked in future each time the Israeli army raided Lebanese villages.

"From now on, whenever a southern village is attacked, a Galilee village will be hit," Mr. Berri, minister of state for South Lebanon, said.

Mr. Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal militia, spoke to reporters as about 800 Israeli soldiers stormed Maarake village, near the southern city of Tyre, in the latest massive operation against alleged strongholds of resistance fighters attacking Israeli occupation troops.

Villages of automatic weapons fire and explosions could be heard from Maarake in this village three kilometres to the west. Israeli helicopters made low runs over Maarake and thick, black smoke rose above the hilltop village, apparently from tyres that townspeople set afire to try to block the Israelis' entry.

British coalminers face crucial decision

LONDON (AP) — Beleaguered mining union leaders, facing defeat after nearly a year on strike, meet Sunday under pressure to call off the longest national labour dispute in British history.

Union officials in Yorkshire, the biggest coal county and bedrock of the strike, held out and decided Saturday to oppose the return to work unless some 700 miners fired for criminal offenses during the strike are reinstated.

But other key regions have demanded the strike be called off without a settlement and are expected to prevail at a special union conference Sunday.

A return with no settlement would leave the central issue of the dispute — the closing of uneconomic mines — unresolved, giving the conservative government victory.

Even Yorkshire miners, by not mentioning mine closures in a resolution passed Saturday, acknowledged there was no hope of shifting Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in her insistence that the national Coal Board close money-losing mines.

Arthur Scargill, who pitched his National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) into the long, costly and violent dispute on March 12, 1984, made a last-ditch appeal Friday for the strike to continue. But some 96,000 miners, or 52 per cent of the union's 186,000 members were back at work by Friday, the Coal Board said, and hundreds more were likely to abandon the strike in the coming week.

The Financial Times, a business daily, estimated that 62 of the 111 national delegates expected to attend Sunday's meeting were certain or likely to vote for a return to work, leaving the issue of fired miners to regional negotiations later.

The Coal Board has said it will not grant amnesty to any miner fired for criminal conduct, ranging from destruction of Coal Board property to violence on the picket line.

Most of the fired miners come from Yorkshire, a business daily, estimated that 62 of the 111 national delegates expected to attend Sunday's meeting were certain or likely to vote for a return to work, leaving the issue of fired miners to regional negotiations later.

The small, militant county of Kent, with 2,100 miners, also voted to stick out for an amnesty.

A photographer who was in the village, 12 kilometres east of the port of Tyre, described the raid this way:

"People looked terrified. The Israelis were shooting in the air and armoured vehicles started rolling amid the burning tyres and shouting women, and one car with a bullhorn called on men to gather at the local school."

The photographer, quoted by the Associated Press, said he was with French U.N. troops in the village when an Israeli colonel ordered him out. Israeli forces blocked other photographers and reporters from approaching Maarake, sometimes fired over the heads of the journalists to back up their orders.

A military source, who spoke to the AP on condition he will not be named, said the Israelis had rounded up about 350 men in the school in the centre of Maarake, that has become known as the "arc of resistance."

The source said the Israelis had come in three tanks, 50 armoured personnel carriers and 30 other vehicles, approaching the village from several directions.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli military sources quoted by the AP said later that Israeli soldiers killed one Lebanese and destroyed three houses during searches in Maarake on Saturday.

The sources, who spoke on condition they were not identified, said the Lebanese was shot while trying to escape from the soldiers.

They said the army arrested a number of men suspected, "planning or carrying out attacks on Israelis," and also found large quantities of arms and ammunition.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said the Israelis were led by General Ori Orr, Israeli army commander for northern Israel.

Residents contacted in the village said the Israelis shot and wounded three people, and a man fleeing towards nearby Toura village had also been shot and lay bleeding in the road.

Toura residents said the Israelis (Continued on page 3)

Israelis break up Birzeit exhibition

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops made a pre-dawn raid Saturday on a Palestinian university in the occupied West Bank to break up a Palestinian cultural exhibition.

A spokeswoman for Birzeit University, north of Jerusalem, said the occupation forces detained 39 students during the mid-night to 4 a.m. (2200 to 0200 GMT) operation. She said they had been preparing a cultural exhibition.

"We have had this type of student activity several times this year and the army hasn't interfered," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

Israel's "civil administration" for the West Bank said the soldiers raided the university to prevent students holding a pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) exhibition Saturday. It said troops made arrests but gave no details.

The authorities claimed the army confiscated hundreds of "terror and incitement handbooks", thousands of pro-PLO leaflets and posters, PLO flags and hundreds of cassettes containing "nationalist songs."

Israeli occupation forces declared the university a closed military area, banning journalists from its campuses.

The university spokeswoman said in a telephone interview that army roadblocks had stopped the majority of students from reaching classes Saturday but that Birzeit had not received an official closure order.

Last year, Israeli authorities closed down Al Najah University in the West Bank town of Nablus for four months following a similar raid on a pro-PLO exhibition.

The Birzeit raid came almost four months after Israeli troops shot and killed one student and wounded another during a campus rally in support of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

U.S. denies travel permit to PLO observer at U.N.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has denied a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) permission to travel to Capitol Hill for an informal meeting with members of the U.S. Congress, a department official said Friday.

Zehdi Terzi, the PLO's permanent representative to the United Nations, and Democratic Representative George Crockett of Michigan had requested a waiver from Mr. Terzi's visa travel restrictions so the PLO official could come to Washington to discuss Middle Eastern problems with congressmen. Mr. Terzi's visa limitations him to travel within 40 kilometres of New York City.

Mr. Crockett had asked members of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and the congressional black caucus if they would be interested in attending an informal meeting with Mr. Terzi, tentatively set for March 13.

The proposal had been opposed by Republican Representative Mark Siljander of Michigan and 18 other house members, who signed a letter asking Secretary of State George P. Shultz to deny Mr. Terzi permission to travel to Washington.

Bomb found near German embassy in Greek capital

ATHENS (Agencies) — Police said they safely removed a bomb Saturday from outside the West German embassy, thwarting an attack that Greek guerrillas said signalled their "unification" with other European leftist groups.

The large explosive device, linked to a six kilogramme gas cylinder, was removed by a bomb disposal squad early Saturday and exploded. Police had been tipped about a suspicious package by neighbouring British diplomats, the Associated Press (AP) said, but Reuters reported that police were tipped off by an anonymous caller.

Reuters quoted police as saying that a caller telephoned and said the bomb was planted.

The caller said the bomb had been planted by a revolutionary group for international solidarity named after Christos Kassimis, who was shot dead during a political demonstration in Greece, according to Reuters.



A PINT OF ROYAL BLOOD: A nurse cuts the tube after taking a pint of blood from Prince Charles at the North London Transfusion Centre Friday. A centre spokesman said the 36-year-old heir to the British throne had been invited to make his first-ever blood donation to allay fears about the spread of the AIDS disease (AP wirephoto)

Egypt has urged more Israeli steps towards peace, Ali says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said in an interview published Saturday that Egypt has urged Israel to take an active role to revive peace talks in the Middle East.

Mr. Ali told the newspaper Al Gomhuria that this was one of four points Egypt had emphasised in recent contacts with Israel, against a background of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's regional peace initiative.

The four points were as follows, Mr. Ali said:

— A withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon;

— Improved conditions for Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip;

— Resolving the problem of Taba, a coastal strip in Sinai claimed by Egypt and Israel; and

— An active Israeli role in initiating peace talks in the context of the recent accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Ali said that Israel, despite conflicting statements by its leaders, "must take the decisions leading to peace in the Middle East."

"Despite the controversy that has been going on in the United States, in Arab capitals and even within the PLO and its leadership, I emphasise that these (Mr. Mubarak's) ideas were aimed solely at getting movement," Mr. Ali told the newspaper. "This is not an initiative but just ideas."

Mr. Ali said the Mubarak proposals were designed "to revive the Palestinian case and an attempt to reach a just solution for the Middle East problem."

He was quoted as saying: "We are not exerting pressure on anyone. We are only offering ideas to help revive the peace process."

Mr. Mubarak has suggested a step-by-step approach for the Middle East peace process, with initial talks between the U.S. and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team, then other Arabs and Israel joining at a later stage.

Mr. Mubarak's proposal explicitly states that the PLO should choose the Palestinian side in the joint delegation.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres this week accepted Mr. Mubarak's proposal for direct talks between Israel and a Jordan-Palestinian team, but insisted members of the PLO should not take part. The plan has been rejected by both Palestinian leaders and the Likud bloc. Mr. Peres' partner in Israel's coalition government.

Palestinian spokesmen have instead demanded an international conference that would bring in the Soviet Union and other concerned Arab countries, such as Syria, whose Golan Heights was occupied by Israel in 1967.

Envoys have been shuttling between Egypt and Israel this week carrying the views of the two governments.

Rome police hunt Libyan for murder of jeweller

ROME (AP) — Police investigating the suspected political murder of a wealthy Libyan jeweller were searching for a Libyan man who was seen with the victim shortly before the shooting, authorities reported Saturday.

The body of Mordechai Fadlun, 50, shot in the head, neck and the back, was found in his store near Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore Friday night. A silencer-equipped 7.65 calibre pistol which apparently was used in the shooting was left on the floor, police said.

The store safe, containing a considerable amount of money and gold objects, was left open, prompting police to suspect that the murder was politically motivated, authorities said.

Police distributed a composite drawing of the suspect, sketched from descriptions by three witnesses who claim to have seen the man enter the store both Thursday and Friday, police said.

Abramo Fadlun, the victim's brother, said the suspect, described as a Libyan in his 30s, and the jeweller were still talking when he and other employees closed the store and left. Fadlun was found dead about an hour later.

Kuwait deplores killing of Iraqi diplomat as attack on security

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait Saturday denounced Friday's murder of an Iraqi diplomat and his son here as an attack on its security and stability.

In its first official comment on the killings of Hadi Awwad Saeed and his teenage son Hassan, which diplomats believe were politically motivated, the Foreign Ministry expressed concern for the safety of all citizens and expatriates on Kuwaiti soil.

"The Foreign Ministry strongly condemns such acts and those standing behind them. It considers such crimes carried out on Kuwait's soil are directed against its security and stability," it said in a statement.

It said appropriate steps had been taken to apprehend the culprits and "determine the various dimensions of the act."

Four gunmen shot dead the diplomat and his son at their home early Friday, then fled in a waiting van watched by Mr. Saeed's wife. She had been feeding a baby in another part of the house and escaped the shootings.

No claim of responsibility for the killings had been reported. Meanwhile, police sources reported earlier that two of the four assailants had held the wife of the Iraqi diplomat at gunpoint till the shooting was over.

The wife was feeding a newborn baby as she watched television at 0130 local time Friday in the sitting-room of their villa, when the four assailants appeared in front of her having entered from the kitchen door, the sources said.

The sources, who refused to be identified, quoted the diplomat's wife as describing the killers as Arabic-speakers, all carrying guns and dressed in ordinary clothes.

As the two held her at gunpoint each of the other two went into adjacent bedrooms and shot the assistant Iraqi cultural attache and his son in their beds in "deep slumber," police said.

Then they rushed out, pushed her to the wall while threatening to kill her if she screamed, and entered a car waiting to speed off with them.

The wife rushed into her son's room to find him dead with a bullet through the head, and in her husband's room she found Mr. Saeed hovering between life and death with a bullet through the forehead and out of the ear.

She called a doctor in a neighbouring villa in the residential Mishraf suburb of Kuwait, some 15 kilometres from the city centre. The neighbour summoned police and ambulance, police said.

Mr. Saeed, in his mid-forties, held the same post in the Iraqi (Continued on page 3)

Iraqi leader receives Mubarak message

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received Saturday a letter from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the latter's Middle East peace initiative, an Arab diplomatic source quoted by the Associated Press said.

The letter was delivered by visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid during a 90-minute meeting with President Hussein.

The letter, according to the source who asked not to be identified, "briefs the Iraqi president on details of President Mubarak's initiative and requests support for the effort." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, who flew in late Friday, told reporters his talks with President Hussein were "cordial and positive" and characterised by "understanding."

Mr. Abdul Meguid confirmed that he had delivered a letter to President Hussein from Mr. Mubarak, but refused to disclose its contents.

Mr. Mubarak's proposal calls on the U.S. to discuss a peace deal for the Middle East problem with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team before inviting Israel to take part in the talks.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz conferred Friday with Mr. Abdul Meguid before flying to New York for a United Nations Security Council debate on conditions of prisoner-of-war in the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Abdul Meguid stressed that the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian team to any future peace talks is "an affair that totally concerns the two involved parties and Israel has no right to interfere in it," the AP said.

The chief Egyptian diplomat concluded his visit to Iraq later in the day and flew back to Cairo.

Zia assumes sweeping new powers

ISLAMABAD (R) — Martial law President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq Saturday announced planned amendments to Pakistan's constitution giving himself sweeping powers and establishing a watchdog national security council.

General Zia said the suspended 1973 constitution, which his amendments will shift from a parliamentary to a presidential system, would be restored in stages as martial law is progressively relaxed.

The national assembly elected last Monday would be able to reject the amendments, but only with a two-thirds majority and with support from the four provincial assemblies elected last Thursday.

Gen. Zia, who overthrew former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977, said the amendments would allow the president to name the prime minister, his cabinet, the heads of the armed forces and provincial governors.

He would also be able to dissolve parliament as long as he called elections within 100 days.

The only apparent concession to the national assembly came when he said the president would not be able to veto legislation, only send it back once for reconsideration.

"This sounds pretty tough — he's not giving anything away," one Western diplomat said after watching the 82-minute speech on television.

Political sources were expecting greater concessions to the national assembly following the elections last Monday, which boosted Gen. Zia's standing because they were well-organised and free of charges of rigging.

Gen. Zia secured himself another five years in power last December through a snap referendum on his reforms which was plagued by disorderly voting and charges of widespread rigging.

He said several times that Pakistan's political system would remain parliamentary despite the amendments which would make it less like the British system and more like the Gaullist-style powerful presidency existing in France.

"The presidential system is somewhat similar to the Islamic system but devoid of the Islamic spirit," he said to explain his reluctance to call the new system presidential.

Gen. Zia did not give a deadline for the restoration of the constitution or abolition of martial law, saying only that the national assembly and senate would meet on March 23, "and thus democratic institutions will be established."

He said the national security council, which critics feared would play a strong role like its Turkish namesake, would only be an advisory body to the president in times of emergency.

Israelis playing 'last card', commando leader says

MAARAKEH, Lebanon (R) — "The Israelis are playing their last card and they have no others," the young commando leader said, "they will leave soon. It is very clear."

The 25-year-old electronics teacher, Muhammad Saad, was interviewed in the village of Maarakeh, near the South Lebanese port city of Tyre, three days ago. On Saturday 800 Israeli troops and intelligence agents stormed the village and detained 100 men for questioning in the biggest of their recent wave of anti-commando sweeps and the latest of a string of raids on Maarakeh. Saad sat in an upper room of the village prayer house, a dozen unarmed men around him and with only a battered walkie-talkie link to his communications network. A few hundred metres away Israeli troops peered from behind high earthenworks and strongpoints bristling with armour and machine-guns.

"The Israeli army has won all its wars with the Arabs, but this time we will beat them despite all their planes, tanks and military strength," he told Reuters.

Dismissing Israeli claims

He dismissed Israeli claims that 11 days of punitive raids on Maarakeh and other villages had driven his Shi'ite Muslim Amal resistance fighters to ground and begun turning local people against them.

"We haven't stopped our attacks since they began attacking our villages," he said. "We attack every day and every night."

Stating a view echoed by foreign military observers in the area, he

said the Israelis were pinned down and frightened by the attacks and only dared move about in force.

Four Israelis were wounded in nine bomb, rocket and grenade attacks Friday, the first casualties since the Israeli army launched the anti-commando crackdown on Feb. 20.

Security sources say there have been nearly 50 commando attacks in the area since the Israeli raids began, despite the rounding up of hundreds of suspects in the villages.

"The raids on the villages are the last thing the Israelis can do," Saad said. "Then they must leave South Lebanon because of the resistance attacks. If they stay in the South they will lose many soldiers. Perhaps that would be best, because we want to teach them many lessons."

Big attacks on villages

"The only time the Israelis move is to mount big attacks on the villages. They are afraid. When they bring water to their positions they guard it with four or five armoured vehicles."

He said the raids had not hurt the fighters. "The Israelis shoot at old men, women and children and blow up houses to make people turn against the young men who fight. But the people help the resistance. They are working with us."

To Beirut-based journalists

defying Israel's ban on visiting the area, the two sides seem locked in a close-range war of attrition, raiding each other from strongholds short distances apart.

Israeli armoured columns, firing at random into hillside to ward off possible attacks, rumble into the villages from fortified camps among the hills and coastal fruit groves. They interrogate the villagers, bulldoze and blow up homes and other buildings and detain suspects.

The commandos melt away when they come and slip back when they leave, mounting harassing attacks by day and night.

"These attacks by the Israelis and their withdrawal from Sidon just show how much we have hurt them," Saad said.

Raids have little success

A foreign observer in the area, which is patrolled by U.N. peacekeeping troops, said the raids were having little success and the Israelis were taking fewer casualties only because they were staying in fixed positions off the roads.

"But how long can the Israelis keep this up?" he said. "Local people are becoming massively anti-Israeli because most people in the villages they have hit, who have been humiliated and harassed, were uncommitted, uninvolved people."

"The southern resistance has already become an Arab cause. The Israelis will make it a genuine national resistance if they go on like this, and from now on the resistance will have no trouble finding recruits," he added.



Israeli soldiers armed with M-16 assault rifles crouch behind the vehicle they had been riding in after gunfire was heard in front of their convoy as it passed along the southern suburbs of Tyre (AP wirephoto)

Algerian aide in Tunis for summit talks

TUNIS (R) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim arrived in Tunis Saturday to discuss prospects for a Maghreb summit. Arab diplomatic sources said.

Tunisia, which has promoted the idea of a meeting between the leaders of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania, has set end-March as a deadline for its efforts to convene the summit. The main obstacle remains the dispute between Morocco and Algeria over the Western Sahara issue.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid said this week Algeria favoured a summit on condition that "representatives of the Saharan people take part in this meeting one way or another." This is unacceptable to King Hassan of Morocco.

Two months of secret talks between Algeria and Morocco to normalise relations and find a solution to the nine-year-old Western Sahara conflict ended in deadlock. Moroccan political sources said in Rabat recently.

IDB grants \$123 m loan

DHAKA (Petra) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has agreed to grant a total of \$123 million in loans to a number of member states to enable them to finance their commercial operations and set up projects.

A number of states, including Bangladesh and Pakistan, benefited from these loans by getting a total of \$87 million to expand agricultural projects, protect the agricultural land from floods and finance the importation of some commodities.

Syria also got \$18 million to finance the purchase of electric generators, while North Yemen got \$19 million to finance the importation of oil products and establishing an agricultural faculty at Sana'a University.

Iran denies reports of peace moves with Kurds

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian political leader, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, has denied that Tehran authorities have sought peace talks with Kurdish rebels seeking autonomy. Tehran Radio reported.

Mr. Rafsanjani, the Majlis (parliamentary) speaker, said, however, rebel fighters would be pardoned but that their leaders should be put on trial.

Abdollahman Jassemlu, leader of one of two main groups fighting government forces in north-west Iran, said in January that Tehran sent representatives late last year to find a political solution to the Kurdish issue.

But Mr. Jassemlu, speaking in London, said negotiations broke down after his Kurdish Democratic Party refused to accept a ceasefire and back down on demands for autonomy.

Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying: "When you controlled all of Kurdistan we did not even look at your faces. How can

we talk to you now you have lost control?"

Addressing a meeting of Islamic Revolutionary Guards, he said rebel leaders should be dealt with in the way Iran intends to deal with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Iran insists that Mr. Hussein be put on trial before Iran consider peace in its four-and-a-half year war with Iraq.

Tehran said last October it had broken the back of the Kurdish rebellion after more than five years of fighting in the region, which is closed to foreign journalists and diplomats.

Sporadic clashes still occur. The newspaper Ertela said nine rebels were killed recently in the Sardasht area, while Iranian newspapers occasionally report funerals of government forces killed by rebels.

Newspapers have also reported clashes between the Kurdish Democratic Party and the other main group, the Komalah.

AOAS to hold talks on developing skilled instructors

AMMAN (Petra) — Four meetings will be held under the auspices of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) to develop the skills of instructors who work at administrative training institutes in the Arab countries, according to the AOAS Director of Training, Dr. Jassem Jamil.

He said that those meetings represent a better local training investment which, on the longer run, "develops qualified Arab cadres capable of fulfilling the local training needs and ensuring dependence from foreign administrative training aid."

He said such an approach, away from foreign dependence, would be more appropriate and better related to the local environments and would also save funds and efforts.

Dr. Jamil said the AOAS hopes, by organising such meetings between Arab trainers, to help bring

closer different ideas of Arab experts in the fields of administrative sciences and would ultimately yield an independent Arab administrative ideology.

He said the four meetings, the first of which is scheduled to start in April, will deal with administrative training design and implementation, training methods and techniques, training evaluation, training follow-up and the preparation and use of training packages.

Dr. Jamil will represent the AOAS in the Arab League's committee meetings on manpower and administrative development due to start in Tunis on March 12.

The committee will discuss, during its two-day meeting, the programmes and activities of Arab League manpower institutions during 1984, their plans for 1985 and coordination between all those institutions.

Essential supplies run short in Tyre

By Andrew Tarnowski

TYRE, Lebanon — Bread, fuel and medical supplies are running short in the South Lebanese city of Tyre after 11 days of siege by Israeli troops.

Since the Israelis sealed off the Tyre region on Feb. 20 in an attempt crackdown on Shi'ite Muslim commandos, the city's estimated 75,000 inhabitants have lived in growing hardship, isolation and fear, eyewitnesses say.

By day, Israeli troops in columns of armoured vehicles drive through the city aiming machine-guns at all sides. Armed plainclothes agents emerge from vans to carry out sudden search and arrest operations.

At night, as Tyre lies under dusk-to-dawn curfew, the silence is occasionally broken by unexplained explosions and the sound of Israeli vehicles on raids.

All petrol pumps and many of the city's 20 bakeries have run out of stocks and closed. Most shops are shuttered and the hospital says it is critically short of medical supplies.

"We have only four or five oxygen bottles left and I can't go to Sidon to get more," Dr. Ahmad Mroue told Reuters at Jebel Aamel Hospital, medical centre for the Tyre region.

"It's the same with all other supplies we need for surgical operations," added Dr. Mroue, the hospital director. "If the Israelis don't let us get material soon we will not be able to work. We need anaesthetics, drugs, oxygen, gauze, everything."

"Soon we will have a food shortage too," he added.

At one of the few bakeries still open, the owner handed out limited bread supplies to anxious customers. "The last four trucks was 10 days ago," he said. "People are stocking up on bread. I have enough flour for today, but tomorrow I shall have to close."

With all petrol stations closed, fuel can be bought only by the can in confidential backstreet deals at nearly twice the normal price.

Tyre's supply lifeline, the coast road to Sidon and Beirut, was cut when Israeli troops blocked twin bridges over the Litani River at

Jasmieh, eight kilometres north, to seal off the region after a wave of commando attacks.

Fuel trucks have been unable to reach Tyre from the Zaharani Refinery 30 kilometres north, and no fuel trucks have arrived from Beirut.

Two other routes further east linking the South with the rest of Lebanon are also blocked.

Twenty kilometres east, an earthenwork cuts the road near the mountain village of Froun. Israeli troops in an elevated steel guardhouse wave vehicles back from a hilltop post.

Further east, pro-Israeli militiamen let only local traffic use a road that could take supply trucks on a 120 kilometre swing down to the Israeli border and north into Tyre.

Israel's latest tactics add to the hardship in Tyre, although it is the Shi'ite village to the east, not the city, that have been the main centres of resistance.

Fearing suicide car bombs, the Israelis have banned cars with single occupants. They prohibit motorcycles, which are used by commando couriers, and warn that cars parked by roads will be destroyed.

Leaflets warn that "whoever disobeys these instructions will endanger their life."

Most Israeli military actions are aimed at a defiant strip of Shi'ite hill villages which are frequently raided by hundreds of troops in helicopters and armoured vehicles.

Scores of villagers have been imprisoned, dozens wounded and several killed by Israeli troops. The Israelis ransack and sometimes bulldoze homes. Critics charge that they also demolish schools and medical centres and desecrate Mosques and prayer houses.

In Tyre, troops mount smaller operations by night. At the civil defence fire headquarters, officials showed Reuters a smashed doory and ransacked office which they said the Israelis broke into early on Thursday morning.

"It's the third time they have done this," said the duty officer. "Yesterday they also searched a Christian Church," he added.

Morocco to hold Throne Festival in Marrakech

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — King Hassan II cancelled without explanation the much-heralded celebration of the annual "throne festival" scheduled for the first time this weekend in El Ayoun, capital of the Moroccan-annexed Western Sahara.

Spokesmen for the interior, foreign and information ministries said they had no official explanation for the last-minute decision to transfer festivities for the two-day national holiday from El Ayoun to Marrakech in southern Morocco.

In a recent upsurge of hostile activity by the Algerian-backed Polisario independence movement in the Western Sahara, at least three small planes — one Belgian, one German and one Moroccan — were shot down by Soviet-made SAM-7 missiles deployed by the Polisario in the southern part of the territory.

On Wednesday, the Polisario's Algiers headquarters claimed 71 Moroccan soldiers were killed in an attack on the phosphate mines at Bou Craa, 80 kilometres from El Ayoun, the disputed territory's major resource. There was no Moroccan comment on the claim. If it took place, it would be first Polisario attack to penetrate the Moroccan defences as far as Bou Craa for more than three years.

Bush visit shows U.S. support for Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush visits Sudan next week, demonstrating Washington's continuing support for President Jaafar Numeiri despite strains between the two countries over his handling of the economy and implementation of Islamic Law.

Mr. Bush is due in the Sudanese capital on Monday during a tour of drought-hit African states, and he is expected to discuss bilateral relations with Mr. Numeiri during his four-day visit.

Sudan, one of the closest African allies of the United States, is the second largest African recipient of U.S. aid after Egypt, absorbing more than \$250 million annually.

Mr. Bush's trip comes two weeks after a State Department spokesman said the U.S. had delayed some aid payments while an economic reform programme was discussed.

There have also been reports from Washington of U.S. concern that Mr. Numeiri's implementation of Islamic Law is being made at the expense of economic and political reforms and is

facing increasing opposition, especially in the troubled south.

The Sudanese economy is plagued by debts of roughly \$9 billion, chronic budget and trade deficits and low productivity, while development in the south of the country has been hit by rebel activity.

Mr. Numeiri is expected to explain to Mr. Bush recent measures his government has taken, including devaluation of the Sudanese pound. Khartoum hopes the measures will lead the United States and other donors to release frozen aid.

There has been no break in food and military aid, however.

U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary William Howard Taft visited Khartoum last week and said he had discussed with the president "the general security situation... and the economic situation."

Both Sudan and the United States have played down the aid freeze. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy here said: "The decision was based on purely economic considerations, and does not reflect any political crisis between the two countries."

More than \$100 million have so far been affected, U.S. sources said, but they added that food aid was expected to reach record levels as emergency grain deliveries continued to drought-hit areas.

The U.S. agency for international development has committed 748,000 tonnes of grain to Sudan this year to help offset an estimated food deficit of up to two million tonnes. Non-U.S. donors have promised only 76,000 tonnes so far.

The Defence Department, meanwhile, has requested an increase in military aid to Sudan in 1986 to \$58 million from \$45 million this year.

Sudan's foreign policy is strongly anti-Communist and closely aligned with that of Egypt, Washington's leading Arab ally.

Sudan is one of the few Arab countries that supported the U.S.-sponsored 1979 peace agreements between Egypt and Israel, and Washington fears that a pro-Libyan or pro-Soviet regime in Khartoum could endanger Egypt and threaten the treaty.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 That's Incredible
18:30 Local Programme
19:00 Arab Series
19:30 News Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A Special Programme on Morocco
21:00 Local Programme
22:00 Tomorrow's Programmes
22:30 Local Programme
23:00 Arabic Varieties Programme
23:30 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 Varieties
18:00 News in French
18:15 The Saudi Jones Request Show
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 News in Insight
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Don't Wait Up
21:10 Crime Line
22:00 News in English
22:30 Scarecrow and Mrs. King

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Pop Session
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Insurance
14:15 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Bulletin
17:00 News Summary
17:30 News Summary
18:00 Jazz Hour
18:30 Newsweek
19:00 Date with a Star
19:30 Evening Show
20:00 News Summary
21:00 Evening Show
21:30 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
23:00 News Summary
23:30 News Headline
24:00 Close down

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 0610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41903
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Turkish Cultural Centre 24040
Spanish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 667195
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 443555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al 'Aja (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 51760.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museumah, Louwleldch. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphos Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Louwleldch, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

PRAYER TIMES

06:46 Fajr
06:58 (Sunrise) Duha
11:57 Dhuhur
17:34 Asr
18:56 Maghreb
19:14 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53707, 53852, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:25 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
14:30 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:45 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
17:35 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
18:00 Paris, Rome (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:25 Beirut (MEA)
20:40 London (BA)
22:00 Baghdad (IA)
22:20 Cairo (MS)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:50 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:00 Damascus, Rome (A2)
10:45 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
15:30 Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
19:30 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
19:40 Doha (RJ)
20:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 Dubai (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Singapore (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
21:45 Baghdad, London (BA)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
23:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
00:45 Larnaca, Berlin (IF)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

— Silver Tower
— Ibn Al-Nafes
— Anasagel Peace
— Sea Monarch
— Borg
— Calypso
— Hania T
— Mahmoudiy
— Janshi

Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 23234 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell-buy rates in JLD
Belgian franc 61.6/ 62.1
Dutch guilder 109.4/ 110.3
Egyptian guinea 301.5/ 305.3
French franc 40.6/ 40.9
Iraqi dinar 368.3/ 375
Italian lire (for 100) 19.8/ 20.1
Japanese yen (for 100) 159.2/ 160.5
Kuwaiti dinar 1349/ 1356
Lebanese lira 25.2/ 27.5
Omani rial 1193.3/ 1201.6
Qatari riyal 115.4/ 115.9
Saudi riyal 43.8/ 44.2
Swedish crown 14.6/ 14.8
Swiss franc 34.9/ 36
Syrian lira 113.3/ 114.5
U.A.E. dirham 445.1/ 448.7
U.S. dollar 415/ 417.5
W. German mark 123.9/ 124.9

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be dusty, especially in the southern and eastern parts of the country, with medium and high clouds. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C
Amman 0/11
Agaba 8/19
Desert -1/12
Jordan Valley 3/14

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Agaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Agaba 39 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 775111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 775121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 36381-1
Electric Power Co. 56390-1
Municipal water service 77125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32
Khaldit Maternity, J. Amman 44281-1
Akhil Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malhus, J. Amman 36140
Palestine Maternity 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital

Royal Decree approves passport law amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving the amendment to the passport law.

The amendment specifies persons eligible for diplomatic passports and limits the validity of those passports to four years.

Another Royal Decree has also been issued approving an amendment to the health insurance regulations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Obeidat receives Belgian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Saturday received at his office the Belgian Ambassador to Jordan, Andre Turine, who ended his term of office in Jordan.

Glass factories to have new committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani Saturday decided to form a new administrative committee for the Jordanian Glass Factories Company. The new committee is headed by Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ibrahim Badran, and groups Mr. Munir Al Saud, Dr. Ma'an Shuqir, Mr. Tayseer Wahbeh, Mr. Niman Asfour and Dr. Kamal Khdeir, the company's director-general, as members. The company's board of directors has recently resigned to allow for the reorganisation of the company's affairs.

Mujalli elected JBA president

AMMAN (Petra) — Advocate Hussain Mujalli was Friday elected President of the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA). Mr. Mujalli, one of three contestants for the post, won 367 votes against 325 votes won by Najib Bushiedat in the second round of polling. Mr. Nabil Haddadin, the third contestant won 123 votes during the first round and polling, but withdrew during the second round.

Criminal gets 12-year jail term

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Abdo Mahmoud Abdullah Al Khedewi to 12 years imprisonment with temporary hard labour for committing different crimes. The military governor endorsed the sentence.

Djibouti trade team due here March 12

AMMAN (Petra) — Djibouti's Industry Minister Fahmi Ahmad Al Haj is due here on March 12 at the head of a trade and economic delegation for talks with Jordanian officials. During their several day visit, the delegation will meet with Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Jawad Al Anani, officials at the Central Bank of Jordan, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Sharkas receives researchers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the Department of Libraries, Documentations and National Archives Ahmad Sharkas Saturday received Dr. Yvonne Haddad from Bedford Seminary and Dr. Barbara Stowasser, chairperson of the Arabic Studies Department at Georgetown University in the United States. During the meeting, they reviewed the subjects of their medical research and tools, sources and techniques of pursuing the researches. Dr. Haddad's research is about the movement of Islamisation in the 20th Century while Dr. Stowasser is working on subjects pertaining to women's status and movements in the Islamic World.



Jordan Medical Association President Hassan Khreis (centre) holds a press conference in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

Special education seminar begins

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A five-day sub-regional seminar on "the organisation and management of special education in the Arab World," started at Jueen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (JAJWF) Saturday.

The seminar is organised by JAJWF in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) regional office for education in the Arab World.

The many objectives of this seminar will be to discuss different strategies for education of the handicapped with reference to the general goals of education, to identify and elaborate activities related to these strategies and also, to clarify the role and importance of an effective organisation and management to bring about the changes needed in the field of education.

Dr. Zaki Al Ayoubi, member of JAJWF board of trustees and Princess Basma's advisor, said that since the JAJWF was established its only concern was to

give due attention to the handicapped.

He added that the preliminary studies which JAJWF conducted proved the lack of adequate social and educational services offered to the handicapped in Jordan.

Therefore, the JAJWF decided to assist the special education sectors by building special schools and private centres for the welfare of the deaf, blind and the physically and mentally handicapped.

He went on to say that the JAJWF has implemented in its five year development plan a strategy to build several other centres for the handicapped throughout the Kingdom.

Dr. Ayoubi added that despite the special care given to the handicapped in Jordan, 90 per cent of the local handicapped need treatment and special centres, and he said this situation implies to all Arab countries.

Mr. Kenneth Eikland, representative of UNESCO's regional office for education in the Arab World, said that the School of Management and Education of Special Education is quite new,

and needs a lot of upgrading.

He added that the participants have to develop and identify new strategies, as well as effective organisational thinking to try and change the current situation of organisations and management of special education in Arab countries.

He said: "It is high time to start thinking with regards to the administrative and management circles."

Mr. Eikland said the way to achieve the goals of "full participation and equality" in educational services aimed at the disabled are not sufficient. "Therefore it is important to elaborate ways of relating activities within the framework of special education, to general national goals and policies on education as well as to clarify these goals and their implications to administrators, teachers and other concerned people."

Attending this sub-regional seminar were representatives of both governmental and private institutions working in the field of special education, representing Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan.

Farmers receive food aid from WFP

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian farmers affected by last year drought are receiving food aid from the World Food Programme (WFP). The distribution, which is expected to last until mid-March includes only flour. Dried milk is not

available for the time being.

The aid came after a joint committee of the United Nations World Food Programme and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) had visited Jordan in the beginning of 1984 and recommended the provision of

urgent food aid to small farm owners in the south and east of the country.

Distribution is supervised by joint committees made of representatives of the ministries of agriculture, interior and supplies and the cooperative organisation.

Conference to discuss medical developments

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's medical association announced Saturday the convening of a Jordanian medical conference on March 6. The conference, which will host internationally famous doctors, will review the latest medical developments and scientific researches.

The medical association held a press conference during which the association's President Dr. Hassan Khreis, said the conference, which will be patronised by His Majesty King Hussein, will include the "latest developments in medicine and surgery".

Outlining the association's activities Dr. Khreis said about 300 seminars were held in Amman and the governorates during the past year.

He said these seminars represent a concrete base for convening the forthcoming conference.

He also underlined the association's future policy which stresses that doctors must attend "local medical seminars as part of their profession", and the association is planning to issue certificates for participants in these seminars.

Dr. Fu'ad Keilani, president of the conference's executive committee, reviewed the past medical conference in Jordan and stressed the scientific and social benefits of these conferences.

He said the association has invited 32 world renowned doctors, including Jordanian expatriates. Eighty medical working papers are expected to be delivered at the three-day conference in addition to several sessions which will tackle important health problems.

Dr. Keilani added: "Information Committee Rapporteurs, Dr. Muhammad Halabi, pointed out that the conference will tackle all fields of medical specialisations."

He also said that the association

has decreased the participation fees "so that doctors can benefit from this medical unprecedented impetus which is considered as continuous medical teaching."

Rapporteur of the conference's scientific committee Ahmad Abdul Wahed said the conference schedule will include a seminar on medicine in Jordan by the year 2000 after the opening ceremony.

The second day will deal with working papers on "combined medical and surgical cardiovascular diseases, gastroenterology, obstetrics and gynaecological disorders."

Jordanian and guest doctors will deliver these lectures at the engineering faculty auditorium in the University of Jordan. Dr. Abdul Wahed said.

On the third day they will deliver lectures on oncology and endocrinology, bilharzia, surgical sub-specialties, internal medicine, skin diseases, gastroenterology and paediatrics.

Dr. Abdul Wahed said the recommendation and lectures will be published in a special medical book to be distributed in Jordan.

He also said that participants will be donated a special certificate of the Fourth Jordanian Medical Conference.

Government announces plans to broaden local administration

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is aiming to broaden the local administration base and to delegate more authority to directors of public works in accordance with the rules and regulations in force. Minister of Public Works Ra'ef Nijem said Saturday.

Mr. Nijem who presided over a meeting of the directors of public works departments stressed the need, on the part of public works department director, to report

regularly on the progress of work of various projects, to identify obstacles facing their implementation and to take corrective actions.

Mr. Nijem also evaluated, with the participants, the efforts of the emergency teams which worked on opening the roads for traffic and keeping them open during the recent snowfall.

He also called for benefiting from this experience in order to improve the performance of emergency and maintenance teams in future.

During the meeting the minister also discussed with the directors the new regulations on speed limits on roads all over Jordan, which was issued by the Interior Ministry and called for setting a date for fixing road and warning signs.

Participants reviewed the JD 33 million projects for the current year, and which will contribute to finding opportunities of work for workers in the construction sector.

Malaysian university team in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, headed by the university's president, Dr. Mohammad Abdul Ra'uf, arrived here Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali received

later Saturday the Malaysian delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation in the fields of exchanging members of staff, sending university of Jordan professors to the Islamic University, accepting a number of

staff members from University of Jordan to obtain higher degrees from the Islamic University as well as setting up cooperation in the fields of scientific research, technical aids and exchange of publications and students between the two universities.

Berri threatens retaliatory attacks against Israel

(Continued from page 1)

stopped U.N. peacekeeping troops from going to his rescue.

The Israeli convoy rumbled into Maarakke at 7.30 a.m. (0530 GMT) past checkpoints manned by French troops of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), security sources said.

They said the raid followed nine attacks on Israeli troops Friday, including two roadside bombs which Israel said injured four soldiers.

"When the first two tanks appeared, everyone disappeared from the streets," said Patrick Baz, a Reuters photographer on the scene when the raid began. Helicopters made a dozen low-level passes over the village, he added.

He said villagers burned tyres to block roads before the Israelis arrived, but offered no other resistance and slowly emerged when troops with loudhailers ordered them to assemble at the local school.

A UNIFIL spokesman said 25 French troops in Maarakke were reinforced by 10 U.N. military observers and the force's deputy commander, French General Jean Pons.

"The French were all over the village," Baz said, adding that he heard three explosions during the half hour he stayed with the Israelis in Maarakke. Two more blasts were heard later, but there was no word on what caused them.

The Israelis barred access to staff of the International Red Cross and seized film and a tape-recorder from reporters.

Women in Maarakke told Reuters supplies of gas and cooking oil had run out, flour prices had doubled and petrol was very low because of Israeli restrictions on access to the village.

During a recent Israeli raid there, troops searching homes ransacked food stocks and mixed them together, they said.

The Reuters photographer said that nearly six hours before the Israeli tanks rumbled into Maarakke on Saturday, resistance fighters knew they were coming and calmly left. The only armed men the Israelis found were French UNIFIL officers, he said.

"We have been expecting this raid for three days," said a French officer who had been waiting in the main square for the Israelis since 3.00 a.m. (0100 GMT), according to Baz.

Long before the first tank appeared, women and children set fire

to barriers of tyres, rocks and wrecked cars blocking roads into Maarakke, the photographer said.

A man in a khaki jacket and jeans stood behind the blazing tyres talking urgently into a walkie-talkie radio, passing information to comrades of the Shiite Amal movement who had already left the village, he said.

There was no sign of Amal chief Mohammad Saad, 25, interviewed by Reuters in Maarakke on Thursday.

Male villagers took to their homes before the lead tank burst through the barricades, followed by a bulldozer which cleared the road.

An Israeli soldier with a loudhailer toured the empty streets ordering residents to gather at the school for interrogation. One by one, men emerged from houses and obeyed. Most of them were aged about 60.

Some 50 French UNIFIL troops deployed in the village to observe Israeli treatment of Lebanese civilians — and to intervene if need be.

"We go into houses and watch while the Israelis search," said one U.N. soldier. The United Nations protested to Israel over a fistfight last month between French troops and Israeli soldiers trying to bulldoze a house in nearby Bourj Rahal village where they claimed they had found arms.

When Colonel Gabry, Israeli commander in the Tyre region, spotted a Reuters reporter and a French colleague, he said: "Get out, you have nothing to do here."

Before we left, he demanded journalists' film. When the journalists protested he said: "Don't ask questions, just give me your rolls."

U.N. soldiers escorted the journalists to the edge of the village, where a French officer told us to walk in the middle of the road with a white flag to avoid being mistaken for fleeing villagers.

Despite the flag, an Israeli patrol opened fire towards the journalists when they were 500 metres from a U.N. checkpoint in Teir Dibba. Recognising the journalists, the U.N. troops yelled and the shooting stopped.

On Friday, resistance forces fired rocket-propelled grenades in two attacks on an Israeli outpost near Deir Qanoun village, northeast of Tyre, and mounted a similar attack near Bourj Al Shemal, southeast of the city, sources quoted by Reuters said.

They also fired a Katyusha rocket at an Israeli post near Silaa village, east of Tyre, for the third night running. There was no word on casualties.

Israel has lost 10 dead including two senior officers and 50 wounded since mid-January, bringing the toll to 621 dead and over 3,700 wounded since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Resistance intensified when Israel announced a phased pullout plan from the south of Jan. 14 and has continued unabated since troops left the Sidon area on Feb. 16.

Mr. Berri issued the reprisal threat in Beirut a day after General Orr warned villagers in northern Israel to expect cross-border attacks.

Resistance fighters trying to expel the Israelis from Lebanese territory have not yet attacked Israeli territory or civilians.

Mr. Berri's statement, however, confirmed the view of Western diplomats and observers in Beirut that rising anger at Israeli actions in the south might cause the fighters to take the conflict into Israeli territory.

Mr. Berri, addressing a press conference, issued his threat after 11 days of Israeli army raids on South Lebanese villages in which troops have killed and wounded villagers, smashed buildings and taken away large numbers of inhabitants.

Mr. Berri demanded that U.N. peacekeeping troops in South Lebanon should be reinforced and

given a broader mandate to protect villages from the Israelis.

"We insist on the continuation and strengthening of its role, the increase of its numbers and effectiveness and its wider deployment up to the international frontier," he said.

An Israeli-backed militia has prevented the 6,000-strong UNIFIL from deploying up to the frontier since its arrival in 1978.

Spokesmen for UNIFIL say it tries to "temper" Israeli actions against villagers and stop them destroying homes, but does not have a mandate to open fire.

At present, the U.N. troops are brushed aside by the Israelis, although some of the French contingent have provoked Israeli anger by standing firm and once having a fist-fight with Israeli troops.

Referring to Lebanon's attempt to obtain a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israeli actions in the south, Mr. Berri said the United States would earn Lebanon's enmity if it imposed a veto.

"We attach great importance to the attitude of any state towards this complaint and consider any stand against it a stand against Lebanon," he said.

"Let the United States in particular know that its enmity for us in the Security Council earns our enmity for it in Lebanon and throughout the world," Mr. Berri added.

Kuwait denounces killings

(Continued from page 1)

embassy in Moscow, and was transferred to Kuwait 18 months ago, according to his colleagues at the Iraqi embassy, his son was a 14-year-old student at the Baghdad Digla School.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry officials have refused to speculate on the identity of the killers or their motives till the four assailants have been arrested.

The newspaper Al Qabas reported that police had found clues that would help them trail the assailants.

Iraqi embassy diplomats said the murder could only have been "politically-motivated because Saeed was a docile character who had no personal enemies." One of the diplomats, who refused to be identified, said "it is the enemies

of Iraq that are responsible."

The bodies were expected to be flown home to Iraq Saturday, after a mourning procession from the Iraqi embassy.

The embassy, announcing the procession in daily newspapers, said the two were "assassinated at the hands of betrayal and aggression."

Diplomats said the embassy had received repeated threats and security arrangements had recently been tightened. They said the murders could be linked to Iraq's 4½-year-old war with Iran.

Diplomats could recall no previous attacks on individual diplomats in Kuwait. In December 1983 a group of men believed to be mainly pro-Iranian extremists bombed the U.S. and French embassies and official Kuwaiti buildings, killing six people.

JNA chief leaves for Monday's Belgrade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The director-general of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Jawad Maraga, left here Saturday to Belgrade to attend a non-aligned news agencies meetings due to start on Monday.

Mr. Maraga said that the tenth meeting of the coordination committee of the Non-Aligned Movement news agencies will elect the committee members and endorse two reports, one from the follow-up committee and another from the coordination committees chairman.

Passport Department collects JD 141,120

AMMAN (Petra) — The Passport Department has collected JD 141,120 in fees for issuing 7056 passports. Director General of Passport Department Mohammad Al Judah said Saturday.

The passports issued are divided as follows: 6345 permanent passports, 490 temporary passports for visitors to the West Bank, 221 passports for visitors to the Gaza Strip.

The department has also collected JD 15,805 in fees for handling 1973 applications for renewal of permanent passports for Gazans, special passports and nationality certificates. Mr. Judah added.

CAA team leaves for talks with Belgian officials

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation representing the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, headed by the CAA's Director-General Khaled Mohammad Ali, leaves Sunday for Belgium to hold talks with Belgian Civil Aviation officials on issues pertaining to air transport.

Alia, which now operates one flight a week between Amman and Brussels, intends to increase the number of its flights.

Committee reviews Social Work Day programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations for the Social Work Day, scheduled for April 6 and the proposed programme for the event were reviewed Saturday during a meeting presided over by Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

Participants also discussed the proposed criteria for registering societies during the forthcoming stage.

During the celebration a number of social workers will be honoured.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohammad Ali Wardam, under-secretary of Ministry of Social Development, Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the Executive Committee of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, Zaki Ayoubi from Jueen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund and a number of senior officials from Ministry of Social Development.

PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE

JORDAN SECOND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Government of Jordan intends to apply for funds from the World Bank, the Housing Bank of Jordan, and the Social Security Corporation and to proceed with a Second Urban Development Project to provide housing and related infrastructure and community facilities for 42,000 mostly low-income residents in the Amman region. The project represents a five year investment period expected to begin in July 1985 and continue to March 1990.

The project includes new developments (approx. U.S. \$60 million) that cover three sites in Russeifa, Naqab and Um Nowarah providing a total of about 3,000 residential plots with on-site infrastructure consisting of roads, water and electricity supply, sewerage and a variety of housing core units and building material loans. Off-site infrastructure, health centres, emergency centres, community centres, women's training centres, and schools would also be provided to serve the project sites.

All construction works will be tendered in specific contract packages for which prequalification of contractors will take place during April 1985, and tender invitations are scheduled to be issued in July 1985 for the first contract, and the remaining at intervals thereafter.

Local contractors as well as foreign contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan, are invited to contact the Urban Development Department in the Municipality of Amman at the address below to purchase the prequalification documents.

Local contractors should be registered at the Ministry of Public Works as high class contractors and classified as:-

- General or first class contractors in buildings, roads, water and sewerage, or
- General or first class contractors in buildings.

It is anticipated that two main contracts will be issued for each site, one will include infrastructure, and on plot construction, and the other will cover the erection of buildings for social facilities.

Prequalification documents will be available on March 5, 1985 and must be returned in a closed envelope to the address below not later than 12 noon, local time April 4, 1985.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 927198
Amman, Jordan
Telex: 22249 UDD JO.

Jordan Times

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Follow that traffic

NEXT MONTH, the traffic department will start accepting applications to renew driving licenses through the mail. Not an earth-shaking bit of news, to be sure, but one more small advance in this country's slow, if sustained, bid to achieve its full human potential. The traffic department is one of those government agencies that have made enormous improvements in their bureaucratic routines in recent years. Going to have your driving license renewed in the early or mid-1970s was an act of supreme courage, which one performed only because of the greater fear of being arrested without a valid driving license. It could often take hours of jostling and pushing to complete the required paperwork and secure the required signatures before one's new license was issued.

The situation improved radically during the past three years, because some new officers who were placed in charge of the traffic department realized that they had inherited a mess, and a disgrace to Jordan's heritage as a land of human skills.

Now the process of taming the bureaucracy and humanising public service is to be taken a step further, with licenses being renewed through the mail. This suggests to us that most public sector institutions have great scope to improve their efficiency and their services to the public. All that is required is that sufficient pressure be brought to bear upon them to do the job properly.

That pressure should logically come from the people themselves, the recipients of public services. But one of the weak points of Jordan today is the lack of systems by which the ordinary man or woman in the street can hold the civil service accountable for its actions and the quality of its services. In cases where departments have been blessed with dynamic leaders, changes happen quickly, and the sun shines every day. In others, there is inefficiency that has been institutionalised for so long that it has petrified, and become almost impervious to human will or deed. The traffic department — once again — has pointed the way to the kind of public service that Jordan's people are capable of, and deserve.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: No, but thank you

WE NEVER doubted that Egypt's moves to hold a meeting grouping the Jordanians, Palestinians and Israel had been made in good faith because we are certain that Egypt aims at finding a just solution to the Middle East problem. Statements by Egypt's Foreign Minister about these proposals add more confidence in Egypt and its intentions. But these proposals have caused controversy and brought about criticism from certain Arab and international circles.

Both Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) refused these ideas and adhered to their Feb. 11 accord, which was signed in Amman, and which stated clearly that a solution for the Palestine problem should be comprehensive and must be under the United Nations' auspices. Rejection of Egypt's proposals does not mean that the PLO doubts that country's intentions but rather calls the attention to the fact that the Jordanian-Palestinian accord should be regarded as basis for any future peace moves.

The controversy which the Egyptian proposals caused and the rejection which it drew from Jordan and the PLO proves beyond doubt that Arab countries must first hold proper consultations and coordination before embarking on any move. We appreciate Egypt's position but feel that the Arabs must be able to present their ideas properly and in a concerted and well-planned manner to the world.

Al Dustour: Israel manipulates Mubarak's call

THE CAUTIOUS welcome which Israel gave to the Egyptian proposals for convening a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian meeting under U.S. auspices has now been transformed into doubt and rejection, according to recent statements by senior Israeli officials.

The Israelis had hoped that the proposals will after all allow them the chance to implement the Camp David agreements which had been rejected by Jordan along with all the Arab countries. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak had offered the new proposals out of a feeling that they may lead to overcoming obstacles in the way of holding an international conference to solve the Palestine problem. No doubt the president's proposals were made in good faith and were designed to help break the deadlock in the current situation through overcoming procedural issues. When the Israelis grasped the intentions of the president, they turned against them since they do not provide for the implementation of the Camp David agreements as they had hoped.

Israel realises too well that the Arabs do not accept the Camp David agreements and they adhere to the resolutions passed by the Arab summits and believe in the role of the United Nations in solving the problem. They should never expect any change in the Arab Nation's position in this respect.

The Arabs, for their part, are advised to give total backing to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord which represents the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Meant to reactivate peace process

EGYPT'S PRIME Minister Kamal Hassan Ali has reiterated that the proposals made by President Hosni Mubarak were meant as steps for reactivating efforts towards a final solution of the Palestine problem. He said that these were ideas and no programme for action.

These statements, together with those made by Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid make it clear for every one that Egypt is more or less trying to revive the efforts for peace. It is up to the parties directly involved in the conflict to decide whether these proposals are suitable or not for a settlement. These parties (Jordan and the PLO) are not committed to what proposals are put forth by any country, unless these proposals are in harmony with their joint accord.

The Jordanian-Palestinian accord signed on Feb. 11 should form the main basis for a solution of the Palestine problem and both parties to the agreement are adhering to it. Moreover, the Israelis and the Americans are not guaranteed to accept any proposals coming from the Arab states since both are interested to see the Arab lands perpetually under Israeli rule.

Sunday's Economic Pulse.

Economist Arthur Laffer's visit to Jordan stalled

By Fahed Fanek

DUE to an unfortunate and silly technicality and a miscommunication problem with the Jordanian consulate in Los Angeles, the planned visit to Jordan by the prominent American economist (and politician) Arthur Laffer stalled. The visit was called off only 78 hours before his departure from Los Angeles to Amman on board an Alia flight.

Dr. Laffer's aborted schedule included extensive meetings with officials and other Jordanian economists, and a lecture at the university of Jordan.

Dr. Laffer was until September 1984 a professor of

business economics in the School of Business Administration, University of Southern California. He is rightly considered the mastermind behind the Reaganomics. Reaganomics is essentially a supply-side approach to activate the economy and achieve a stable growth through the right incentives.

Dr. Laffer was a close economic advisor to Ronald Reagan before his landslide election as president of the United States in 1980. He was later appointed a member in the President's Economic Policy Advisory Board. He is a del-

inite Republican party candidate for the Senate, representing California as of 1986.

Dr. Arthur Laffer is an influential economist, not only at the academic level, but also at the media level. The American media gave Dr. Laffer an attention that was rarely given to a scholar before, that he almost became a T.V. star!

Dr. Laffer is of course associated with the famous "Laffer Curve" in which he simply illustrated that with tax rates and tax revenues both starting at zero, as they rise together the government reaches a certain "optimum rate" at which it collects its maximum revenues.

but if it attempts to tax more income, it reaches an "excessive rate" which has the effect of being a disincentive to work, savings and investment. With the ensuing decrease, then, in total income available to tax, the tax revenues decline.

President Reagan embraced this concept and embarked on his economic policy spearheaded by tax cuts, and in less than two years the American economy recovered from the deepest recession since World War II.

Arthur Laffer is not a mere professor of economics. In a way he is also a politician, playing a major role in the for-

mation of economic thought prevailing in the administration which is leading America, the superpower of the so-called "Free World".

The presence of Dr. Laffer in Amman could have been a valuable opportunity for Jordanian economic and political intellectuals to touch on this contemporary current and exchange views from a Jordanian or Arab perspective.

It is very important that this prominent economist should go back home with excellent impressions about Jordan, the small free-enterprise country, which was able to achieve one of the highest rate of economic

and social growth among "Third World" countries during the last decade, and which is now facing the new economic slow-down in a courageous and efficient manner, demonstrating ability to adjust effectively, and follow up on the latest in modern economic thinking.

Next week we shall highlight the main economic and financial policies Arthur Laffer stands for, while a third article will be devoted to the evaluation and challenges to which Dr. Laffer's recommended policies were subjected in America and world-wide.

IMF talks may decide fate of suspended aid to Sudan

By Philip Shehadi

KHARTOUM — Sudan, facing drought, economic strains and a rebellion in its South, is anxiously awaiting the outcome of talks in Washington which may decide the fate of over \$100 million in suspended financial aid.

Foreign observers here say International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Sudanese officials are examining economic reforms Sudan has launched in recent weeks, including a devaluation, new currency controls and higher prices for basic commodities.

Finance Minister Abdul-Rahman Abdul-Wahab and Central Bank Governor Farouq Al-Magboul were in Washington for the talks, which were likely to end on Saturday, Mr. Magboul's

office said. The observers said movement toward an accord between Sudan and the IMF would encourage other creditors, led by the United States to release suspended aid.

A 1984 standby agreement between Sudan and the IMF, signed last May, quickly fell apart when Sudan failed to meet arrears on debts of more than \$800 million.

The State Department said last week Washington had decided several months ago to delay further disbursement of balance of payments support to Sudan "pending the Sudanese government's implementation of an economic reform package."

The drought-hit African state, also torn by a rebellion in the South by opponents of President Jaafar Numeiri's regime, urgently

needs the cash to pay for imports of food, oil and agricultural and industrial goods.

Sources at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said the U.S. aid freeze affected roughly \$80 million out of a \$120 million allocation in 1984 for balance of payments support. Total budgeted U.S. civilian and military aid to Sudan last year was over \$270 million.

The sources said none of the \$120 million earmarked by the U.S. for balance of payments support in 1985 had yet been paid. The money is used mainly to finance imports of American commodities.

The World Bank, another major creditor, has disbursed aid for projects already under way without interruption, but has temporarily slowed consideration of

new projects pending a review of the Sudanese economy, an authoritative source said.

European donors grouped in the Paris Club have taken a similar stance on balance of payments support, the source said.

Saudi Arabia, Sudan's largest Arab aid donor, approved a \$35 million loan this month, but only after King Fahd sent Mr. Numeiri a letter urging him to reach agreement with the IMF.

Observers say a big Saudi contribution to a proposed credit to finance imports of petroleum products may depend on a new IMF agreement.

Meanwhile, Sudanese leaders are preparing the population for a round of price rises which are likely to follow the 48 per cent devaluation of the Sudanese pound

earlier this month.

"We align the price of petroleum products generally with the price of the Sudanese pound, and with their true cost. We will ... probably carry this tendency to other things," Mr. Numeiri said in a recent newspaper interview.

A new customs schedule introduced this week has already brought higher tariffs for imported goods. Budget cuts have been made in response to sharp declines in government revenue due to new Islamic tax laws and drought, which has affected taxable income.

Finance Minister Abdul-Wahab told Reuters in a recent interview the government had cut 7.5 per cent off projected expenditures of 2.7 billion pounds (\$1.1 billion) in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

The devaluation was accompanied by a crackdown on black market currency dealing and the introduction of a floating exchange rate alongside the fixed official rate of 2.50 pounds to the dollar.

The U.S. has commended the measures, saying they have cleared most of the obstacles remaining before economic support fund disbursements can be resumed.

The IMF's view of the new measures is not known, although it has long called for a floating exchange rate.

Bankers here, however, note the new floating rate has not changed since the initial fixing at three pounds to the dollar two weeks ago.



Clouds gather over Malaysia's Mahathir

Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia's prime minister, has won respect for his efforts to modernise the country, but Chris Sherwell reports that the Bank Bumiputra scandal and one or two political accidents may force him to hold elections much sooner than expected.

KUALA LUMPUR — Few in Malaysia would have believed it possible even six months ago, but a significant reassessment of the premiership of Dr. Mahathir Mohammad is under way within the country's political establishment, business community and foreign diplomatic corps.

Expectation is running high that a general election will be called much earlier than the due date of April 1987, and perhaps even later this year. Although no one doubts that the ruling-party National Front coalition will be returned to power, its previous margin of victory in 132 out of 154 seats could well be chopped back.

Even now, the standing of some of the key parties in the coalition is being eroded, while opposition parties and groups are posing new challenges. Fresh questions are being raised about the complicated religious and ethnic structure of Malaysian politics.

Dr. Mahathir, who is 59 and has been premier since 1981, looks more vulnerable now than in the first half of last year. Then, his ascendancy within the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the powerful Malay party which dominates the country's politics, appeared assured.

No single factor seems to be responsible for this remarkable change. But few people doubt that Dr. Mahathir's awkward handling of the constitutional crisis over the king's powers more than a year ago — a dispute which went on far too long and ended in a clumsy compromise — has been repeated over numerous issues since, to his continuing embarrassment.

It has taken more than six months, for example, to deal with a public controversy over a nuclear waste dump in Perak state. A battle was waged even longer over the proposed development of an ancient Chinese cemetery in the town of Malacca, providing another parochial but politically significant dispute which has proved unnecessarily costly to the government.

More importantly, Dr. Mahathir's ruling coalition has been

embarrassed by two major developments — a fractious internal quarrel which has split the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), the principal Chinese component, and the activities of a fundamentalist Muslim group outside the coalition known as Parti Islam or PAS, which has accused UMNO of deviating from Islamic principles of government.

The MCA, over a year after its troubles burst into the open, has been unable to patch up its differences. The squabble originally focused on allegedly padded membership lists, but degenerated into a legal and personal clash over the leadership. This has shocked the Chinese community and may even have helped the electoral standing of the opposition Democratic Action Party, a predominantly Chinese party highly critical of the government.

The PAS controversy, disturbing to all those concerned about the possible growth of religious extremism in Malaysia, produced an astonishing proposal to debate on television the proper place in politics of the country's major religion.

The plan was eventually scotched by no less a figure than the King, who is formally the final arbiter on aspects of the Muslim faith in Malaysia. The irony of his intervention, following the earlier constitutional argument over his powers, was lost on no-one.

But Dr. Mahathir's main political problem actually goes back to before the time he was elevated from the deputy premier's position in 1981. This is the continuing Bank Bumiputra scandal, in which the country's biggest bank, formed to help economically weak Malays compete with the prosperous Chinese community, lent and lost billions of dollars to Chinese property speculators in Hong Kong between 1980 and 1983.

As details of the affair have unfolded, the suspicion has grown that leading figures in the Malaysian political establishment are implicated. So widespread is the talk of a cover-up that a new word

could soon creep into the local lexicon — "Bumigate". One newspaper has even named as "Malaysian of the Year," Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin, the Auditor General, because of his skilful handling under restricted and difficult circumstances of the investigation into the bank's bad loans.

The Auditor General, obviously shocked by what he has discovered so far, has already called for a royal commission into the whole banking industry. But the most volatile criticism has come from a furious Hussein Onn, Dr. Mahathir's predecessor who, perhaps only coincidentally, is known to have been unhappy about the way he eventually left office. He says the country's Malay community has been disgraced by the scandal and wants to see the culprits punished.

It still remains a puzzle who ultimately authorised the original Hong Kong loans, which went chiefly to the Carrian empire, and who sanctioned the expensive and ultimately abortive attempt to prevent what became the colony's biggest bankruptcy. Who was behind Carrian itself is an even bigger mystery.

It is also not certain whether more heads will roll beyond those who have now gone from Bank Bumiputra.

How seriously any further damaging revelations might affect Dr. Mahathir's personal position is an open question. His determined and ambitious efforts to modernise Malaysia have rightly won him plenty of admirers, and he can be expected to resist any attempts to ease him out, or to make him ask other senior officials to take responsibility and resign.

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, shifted last year to the Trade and Industry Ministry, has previously been thought vulnerable because his Finance Ministry was at a crucial time a major shareholder of Bank Bumiputra. Equally the one man who by common consent stands to gain most from the government's embarrassment over Bank Bumiputra is Datuk Musa Hitam, the deputy prime minister.

Though always tipped eventually to succeed Dr. Mahathir, the success of Datuk Musa's protégés in winning key positions in



Mahathir... high pressure

UMNO party elections last May was quickly followed by the installation of Dr. Mahathir associates to run the party day-to-day, and by a Cabinet reshuffle in which the Prime Minister's long-time aide, Dr. Daim Zaidin, was brought in from private business to run the Finance Ministry.

People have since stopped talking of the "Two Ms", a favourite label to describe the powerful duo when they stood more firmly together. Though suggestions of a split remain far-fetched even now, it has not gone unnoticed that Datuk Musa has made conspicuous moves during Dr. Mahathir's absences abroad to deal decisively with matters like the nuclear dump controversy and the MCA crisis.

None of this means that either Malaysia or even Dr. Mahathir are in trouble. What it does suggest, however, is an unforeseen shift in sentiment which, as long as it continues, can be exploited by factions within UMNO, components of the ruling coalition and opposition parties and groups.

That may be why talk of an early election is now building, so that a popular mandate might be renewed to head off potential difficulties. Politics in Malaysia's complex democracy thus promise to be even more fluid in the coming months than they have seemed in the past — Financial Times news feature.

Reagan administration uses foreign aid to 'further peace'

WASHINGTON — "The resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to be one of our foremost objectives," U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Robert Pelletreau asserted in testimony in support of the Reagan administration's 1986 Middle East economic and security assistance.

Appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East on Feb. 26, Mr. Pelletreau stated that, "There are no quick and easy solutions for peace in the region" but U.S. assistance "plays an important role in furthering the peace process."

The complete text of Mr. Pelletreau's statement follows: I welcome the opportunity to testify today in support of the administration's proposals for fiscal year 1986 economic security assistance for the Middle East.

The administration's proposal reflects our foreign policy and national security objectives in this vital region. In each country, our assistance programmes are intended to nurture relationships of mutual interest and trust and to assist these governments in strengthening their security and furthering their economic progress. Our foreign assistance programmes in the region are vital to the achievement of our foreign policy goals:

- to promote stability in this strategically important region;
- to ensure the security and well-being of Israel, and to assist other friendly states in the region with their security needs;
- to foster the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, especially between Israel and the Arab states;
- to maintain "Free World" access to the vital oil resources of the Gulf;
- to assist Lebanon in its efforts to restore and expand central government authority and to undertake economic reconstruction.

In our efforts to advance regional stability and to promote the resolution of conflicts throughout the region, we recognise that the spirit of accommodation can grow more readily if friendly states feel confident of their ability to provide for their own security and for the economic and social needs of their people.

The levels and terms of our proposed assistance have been carefully developed within the constraints of our budget stringencies and the president's economic programme, and are the minimum amounts needed to meet requirements of the countries in this region.

Our fiscal year 1986 foreign assistance request for the Middle East will fund six major programmes:

- \$3,263.3 million in Foreign Military Sales Credit (FMS) including 3,100 million in forgiven credits for Israel and Egypt.
- \$6 million in grant Military Assistance Programmes (MAP).
- \$4.95 million in International Military Education and training (IMET).

- \$887 million in Economic Support Funds (ESF).
- \$33.17 million in development Assistance (DA) and \$227.1 million in PL 480 food assistance.

Middle East Peace

As part of our general effort to promote regional stability, the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to be one of our foremost objectives. There are no quick and easy solutions for peace in the region. However, we will persevere with our efforts, which are based on the president's Middle East peace initiative of Sept. 1, 1982. Our assistance plays an important role in furthering the peace process.

Six years ago a peace treaty ended thirty years of war between Egypt and Israel. Israel and Egypt remain our principal partners in the quest for peace, and these two nations are the largest recipients of our proposed foreign assistance for fiscal year 1986. This assistance is aimed at ensuring their security and strengthening their economies, both essential to their continuing on the path to a broader peace settlement.

Smaller programmes planned for Jordan and Lebanon can also promote regional stability and progress towards peace. Jordan requires our continued support to maintain its security, its role in facilitating the stability of the area, and to build the necessary confidence to join the peace process. Lebanon needs our support to help deal with the continuing problems besetting it. Our programme also seeks to improve the quality of Palestinian life in the West Bank and Gaza, and to encourage economic and social cooperation in the region. Individual programme reviews follow:

Israel: The United States has a historic commitment to Israel's security and viability extending over the past three decades. Our assistance provides a tangible demonstration of the strength and durability of that commitment, and seeks to give Israel the confidence to take the risks necessary to pursue the peace process.

To assist Israel in maintaining its qualitative edge in military capability over potential aggressors, a \$1.8-billion FMS credit level is requested, an increase of \$400-million over fiscal year 1985. As was true last year, this FMS request would consist exclusively of forgiven credits, i.e., grant funds. This change was proposed last year by the administration and enacted by Congress to respond to the negative impact of the increasing burden of debt service on the Israeli economy. Israel's military needs have been analysed by both governments during sessions of the Joint Security Assistance Planning Group. We each agree that the terms and level of the fiscal year 1986 FMS request for Israel will achieve our mutual goals —

— \$4.95 million in International Military Education and training (IMET).

Earthquake-prediction tradition enormously shaken by new multi-phased techniques

On average, earthquakes kill 40,000 people a year — but there is no such thing as an average earthquake. In trying to predict them, ancient man observed the behaviour of snakes. Today's more sophisticated techniques include bouncing laser beams off distant mirrors and watching for seepages of hydrogen from the ground.

SOME EARTHQUAKES are likely to remain unpredictable. Earthquakes are caused by the movement of the "plates" of the earth's crust past each other along the faults that separate them. In some places the movement is smooth and steady; in others sudden jerks cause earthquakes. Small quakes can trigger big quakes elsewhere on a fault. Without knowing the probability of a small quake being triggered, you cannot calculate the certainty of a big one.

Such unpredictable triggers are fortunately rare. In the past year, scientists from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at Menlo Park near San Francisco have chalked up remarkable successes in approximate forecasts — nobody dares call them predictions. They are now poised to test their methods against the next big quake. As if sensing that it is cornered, the San Andreas fault has gone unnervingly quiet.

Because the earth's crust varies so much from place to place, a single, foolproof way to predict earthquakes is unsustainable. Scientists are instead trying to guess what is likely to happen in particular locations. The USGS methods are two-pronged. First, they analyse a section of the fault to estimate the characteristic size and frequency of earthquakes there. Second, they measure the deformation of the ground to see how much strain has accumulated.

An earthquake at Morgan Hill in California vindicated both approaches. The USGS's Dr. Bill Bakun had studied the pattern of earthquakes in that region. He then worked out where, he thought, the fault was sticking (such

points are known in the trade as asperities) and — from past records — how much strain it could take. He concluded in 1980 that an earthquake of magnitude six on the standard Richter scale, was due. It came in April, 1984: magnitude 6.1 and only five kilometres from where he expected.

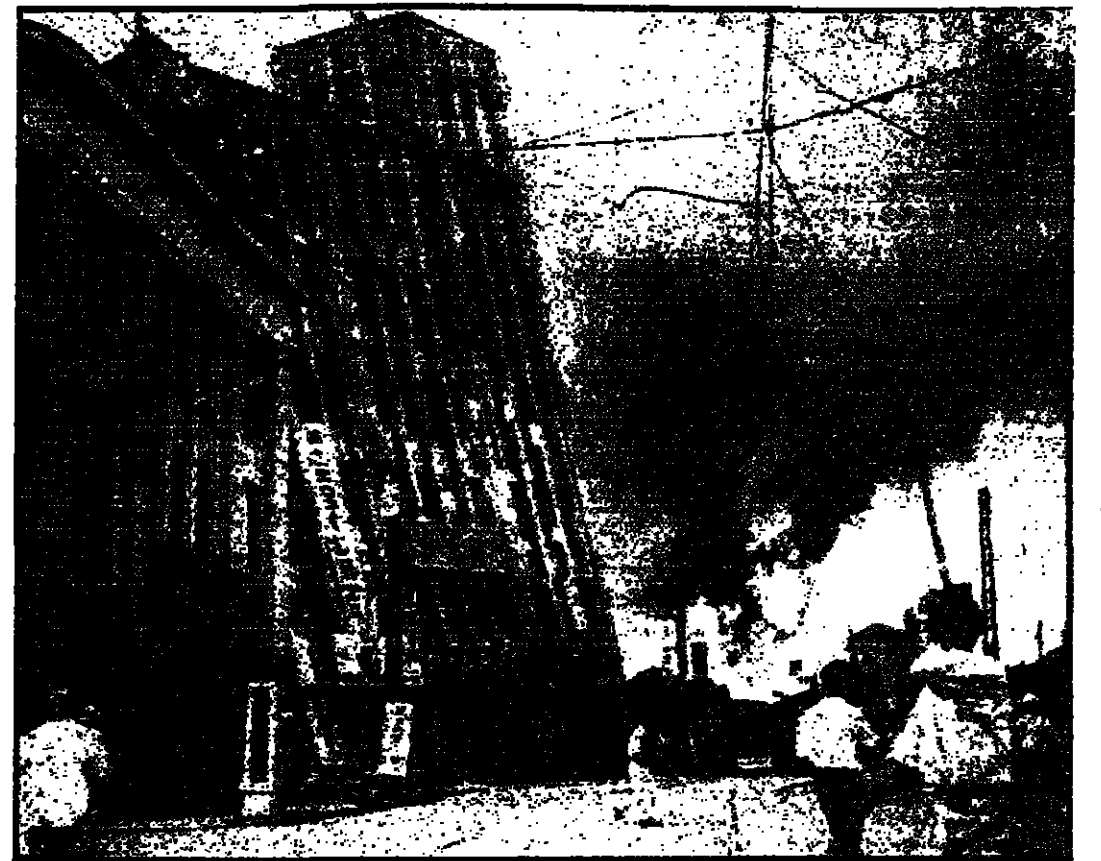
Now Dr. Bakun and his colleagues have made a detailed study of a small section of the San Andreas fault near Parkfield, mid-way between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The Parkfield section gives small (5.6 or so) tremors regularly every 22 years. It is wired up like an experimental rat in anticipation of the next jerk. In early 1988, give or take a few years, instruments called dilatometers record changes in pressure down to 200 metres below the surface, while lasers reflected off distant mirrors (as much as 10 kilometres away) measure movements of the crust to within a millimetre. Dr. Bakun hopes that the Parkfield section's "final stages of preparation for failure" will show up so clearly on the instruments that a genuine warning will be possible.

At the southern end of the Parkfield section, near Cholame, the fault has been locked beyond an asperity since the giant quake that damaged Los Angeles in 1957. It is possible that the next Parkfield earthquake (1988 or so) will cause at least part of this section to rupture. At the northern end of the Parkfield section, the fault has been stuck since the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. This will probably not fail again for at least 25 years. But a gradual build-up of seismic activity has occurred in the San Francisco Bay area since the 1950s, just as before 1906.

Such methods are not yet precise. Warning ("get under the table") is still empirical guesswork: you look for strange chemical or physical anomalies that seem to precede earthquakes. The most promising are probably the seismic signals (foreshocks) that

precede some earthquakes. But others are being developed. One such is the measurement of hydrogen seeping from the ground. This is based on a simple principle. Gases get trapped in rocks; when rocks move, the gases escape; being common and volatile, hydrogen escapes in quantity and quickly. Therefore, hydrogen seeping from the ground in unusual amounts means rocks are moving down below.

Mr. Ken McGee and his colleagues from the USGS in Vancouver, Washington, developed the hydrogen method for volcanoes in Hawaii and have now begun to apply it to earthquakes. Mr. McGee's team is staking out the San Andreas fault in the hope of refining this method — finding out how far from the epicentre it works and whether it can distinguish large quakes from small. In November, 1984, near the town of Mammoth Lakes in California (in an ancient caldera that has begun to bulge and quake omi-



That sinking feeling

nously over the past five years), they measured a sudden pulse of

hydrogen and — privately — predicted an earthquake. Ten days

later, the ground shook — The Economist.

Translating: Language said to be less than enough

By Shawn G. Kennedy

NEW YORK — The popular notion of the translator is of a spectacled soul hunched over dictionaries and phrase books, while his counterpart, the interpreter, is seen at the elbow of diplomats or in the glass-enclosed language booths of the United Nations. But language experts say these visions of their work are outmoded.

The skills of the translator, who takes the printed word from one language to another, and the interpreter, who translates speech, are today as likely to be sought by high-tech manufacturing companies, advertising agencies and film companies as by publishing houses, governments or global organisations.

Technological advancements, such as the development of computers that translate, have altered the way language experts do their jobs. But most professionals view electronic translators and computerised dictionaries as time-saving aids rather than as rivals. "The profession has blossomed" and technology has made it

work faster, more exact and more complete," said Irene Agnew, The Los Angeles-based translator and interpreter founded a computerised translation service, Agnew Tech-Trans, which she sold to Berlitz Translation Services.

The expanding global marketplace, competition from industrialised nations such as Japan and West Germany and the emergence of the Middle East in international affairs have all had an impact on the profession. Demand is particularly great for those fluent in Japanese, Chinese and Arabic and for professionals with technical or scientific backgrounds.

David Laube, director of marketing for Berlitz Translation Services, a subsidiary of the worldwide language school, said that for U.S. companies the ability to communicate with potential clients and consumers overseas is a tool of competition.

"At one time, for example, many American manufacturing companies felt comfortable exporting printed materials like product instruction booklets or repair manuals in English, assuming they would be translated overseas," he

said.

No statistics exist on numbers in the translation profession, in part because there is no state or federal certification. But Eva Berry, outgoing president of the American Translators Association, said more Americans were joining the profession. Since its founding in 1960 the association has grown from a few hundred to nearly 1,000 members.

John C. Miller, director of the foreign-language programme at the School of Continuing Education at New York University, agrees.

"At one time a great many of the translators and interpreters working in the United States were foreign born, people who came here after the war," he said. "But that generation of language professionals is reaching retirement age and they are being replaced by young, well-educated Americans who have studied foreign languages and lived abroad."

Berlitz saw a demand for specialised translation as more of its language instructors were asked by companies to be translators. Two years ago Berlitz established

its translation division and it now has a full-time staff of 60 translators in seven branches.

Among the companies that have stepped up their use of translators is Hughes Ground Systems, a California-based military supplier. "In recent years our business has expanded beyond the NATO-European countries to areas of the world like Asia and the Middle East where a knowledge of English is less prevalent," said George Flores, who acts as a liaison between the company's technical divisions and the translation services and consultants it uses. "Our requirement for foreign-language experts is ongoing and has grown twofold in the past few years and will probably continue to grow."

Peggy Gowen, a free-lance translator and interpreter who runs a service from her home in Manhattan, has seen several changes since she entered the field more than 20 years ago, including a demand for languages spoken in the Far East and Middle East as well as an increase in the amount of technical material she is asked to translate.

A typical assignment when she began her company in the 1970s, she said, was acting as an escort/interpreter for a European fabric company or fashion house.

"Now my work frequently involves the translation of a legal document or material for an industrial manufacturing company," said Ms. Gowen, who has worked for the United Nations and the State Department and is fluent in French, Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. She studied several languages in school and learned others while working abroad.

While the need of the business community for foreign-language experts is clear, the State Department remains probably the largest U.S. employer of translators and interpreters. Donald Barnes, chief of interpreters, maintains a roster of 1,000 full-time and part-time workers who interpret for Foreign Service personnel and serve as escorts for visiting dignitaries. The agency tests applicants and requires no previous professional experience.

Bruce Boeglin, who has worked as a U.N. conference interpreter,

forsees growing work opportunities for interpreters.

"As teleconferencing, via satellite, becomes a standard way of communicating in the business world, the use of conference interpreters by the private sector will increase," said Mr. Boeglin, who just retired as training officer in the U.N. interpreters section.

An academic knowledge of a language or the ability to do word-for-word translation of the spoken or written word is not enough. Those with an area of expertise have a definite edge.

A director of Ad-Ex, a translation service in Palo Alto, California, serving companies in Silicon Valley, went so far as to say that his company hired few translators without backgrounds in engineering, chemistry or mathematics.

Jerry Mryglot, a staff translator for Berlitz who holds a bachelor's degree in Russian from Columbia University and a master's degree in the language from Stanford University, took a course in securities to assist him with the large amount of financial material he was asked to translate.



Bruce Boeglin sees more teleconference interpreting

Despite the evidence of broadened opportunities for translators and interpreters with certain language and technical specialties, some in the profession say the current economic climate has stiffened the competition among the translation services and those

who free-lance. "The strong U.S. dollar is hurting us now," said Berry of the American Translators Association, who runs her own translation service. "Companies are cutting costs by having their work done overseas." — New York Times.

Indian trains roll on despite fraud, overcrowded traffic

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

NEW DELHI — The 178 up train from Delhi to Pune is about to leave. Vendors selling fruit, betel nut, tea, Hindi comics and silver-tinted sunglasses scurry along the platform.

The dark red carriages begin to move. There is a frantic rush as hundreds jump on and others squeeze off.

Muslim mothers in black veils, soldiers in khaki, fat businessmen leading newspapers and babies clutching the window bars peer out as the train pulls away.

You only have to be a passenger in the standing-room only second class carriages to appreciate a major headache facing one of the world's three biggest railway networks.

Passenger demand is increasing by four per cent a year, faster than capacity to meet it.

The result, according to the Indian Railways' yearbook for 1982-83, the most recent available, is "an occupation ratio of more than 100 per cent on rush-hour suburban routes and long-distance trains during peak seasons."

In plain English this means that if you ride an Indian train at busy times in summer you will travel packed like a sardine in temperatures of up to 44 degrees centigrade (110 degrees Fahrenheit).

Public indignation at this exploded last month when a crowd of 25,000 attacked a railway station at Bhayandar, an industrial suburb of Bombay. Police opened fire to quell the trouble, killing six people.

"More than 100 trains pass through Bhayandar each day, but no one except the very agile can get on to them as they are packed full," a senior railway manager said.

"The public here has a valid complaint but there is nothing we can do for them."

Most new rolling stock is needed to replace worn-out equipment, some of it in service for more than 30 years. Little is available to expand capacity.

State-owned Indian railways operates a network of 61,000 kilometres with 10,000 locomotives. Its staff of 1,700,000 makes it the

country's biggest employer.

It carried 3,660 million passengers and nearly 256 million tonnes of freight in 1982-83, up from 1,280 million and 93 million in 1950-51.

In running this vast operation, the railways face formidable difficulties.

In 1982-83, inspectors picked up 5,300,000 passengers travelling without a ticket, fining them \$7,200,000.

"In Bihar state, the most lawless in India, I found one of my inspectors with his throat slit, presumably by ticket dodgers," the manager said.

"One racket there is buying ticketless insurance for say 10 rupees (80 cents) a month. You never buy a ticket and, if you are caught, the insurer will pay you back the cost of the fine."

The railway network employs 67,000 men to guard its property. But each year it has to pay out millions of dollars in compensation for loss and theft. Coal, grain, fruit and vegetables are most popular with the thieves.

"Running train thieves," as they are officially called, pull apart connections between carriages, forcing the train to stop, and then make off with the contents.

Another hazard is alarm-chain pulling. Passengers pull the cord when the train nears their home so they can get off.

The railways, which began here in 1853, fulfill a crucial role in delivering goods and people across a country where cars are a luxury.

Independent India has developed the legacy left by the British to the point where it makes over 92 per cent of its own equipment and exports engines and coaches to Bangladesh, Mozambique, Vietnam and the Philippines. It has won huge construction projects in Africa and the Middle East.

Last October it inaugurated a new service, from Jamnui in the far north to Kanyakumari on its southern tip, a journey of more than 3,000 kilometres.

"There are not many people who want to go the whole way," the manager said.

"The service is more a symbol of integration, how the railways unite the different peoples and regions of the country."

Madagascar's farm development suffers ravaging impact of cattle rustlers

Well-organised gangs of bandits are terrorising farmers in southern Madagascar, disrupting the nation's plans to become self-sufficient in food. The police, and the government, seem powerless to cope with the modern cattle rustlers.

By Michael Griffin

ANTANARIVO, Malagasy Republic — Bands of well-organised bandits are thwarting Madagascar's attempts to increase food production in the island's southern provinces.

For four years these bands, known locally as "Dahalo", have raided cattle, burned villages and robbed and killed rice-farmers in the provinces of Fianarantsoa and Tulear. The ill-equipped police force has been unable to curb the attacks; the terrorised farmers have begun to abandon their land to seek refuge in towns.

"The theft of cattle passes all thinkable limits," wrote Monja Jaona, Madagascar's most outspoken opposition politician in an open letter to president Didier Ratsiraka. "They are strangling the economy of the nation and since it has to do with organised theft, scandalising the sovereignty of the state."

Police in the city of Fianarantsoa, 400 kilometres south of the capital, Antananarivo, and gateway to the parched south, say they receive reports of some 50 attacks every week in the district, but claim there is little they can do.

Police, with little transport, may take a week to visit the scene of a raid, and then they find only tight-lipped villagers who refuse to give information for fear the dahalo will return and exact vengeance. The Malagasy Army has mounted sweep operations and combed the forests, but the bandits simply melt into the bush until the military units have gone.

In 1982, Madagascar imported nearly a quarter of its rice needs in order to make up for shortfalls in local production. Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the government is committed to a policy of food self-sufficiency by 1990, but the raids have disrupted the lives of the reg-

ion's largely rural population.

"It is a catastrophe," a French priest said. "I went to an area between Ambositra and Fianarantsoa where the people had not worked for a year. The men sleep in the daytime to keep watch by night. For 10 kilometres around it was impossible to work."

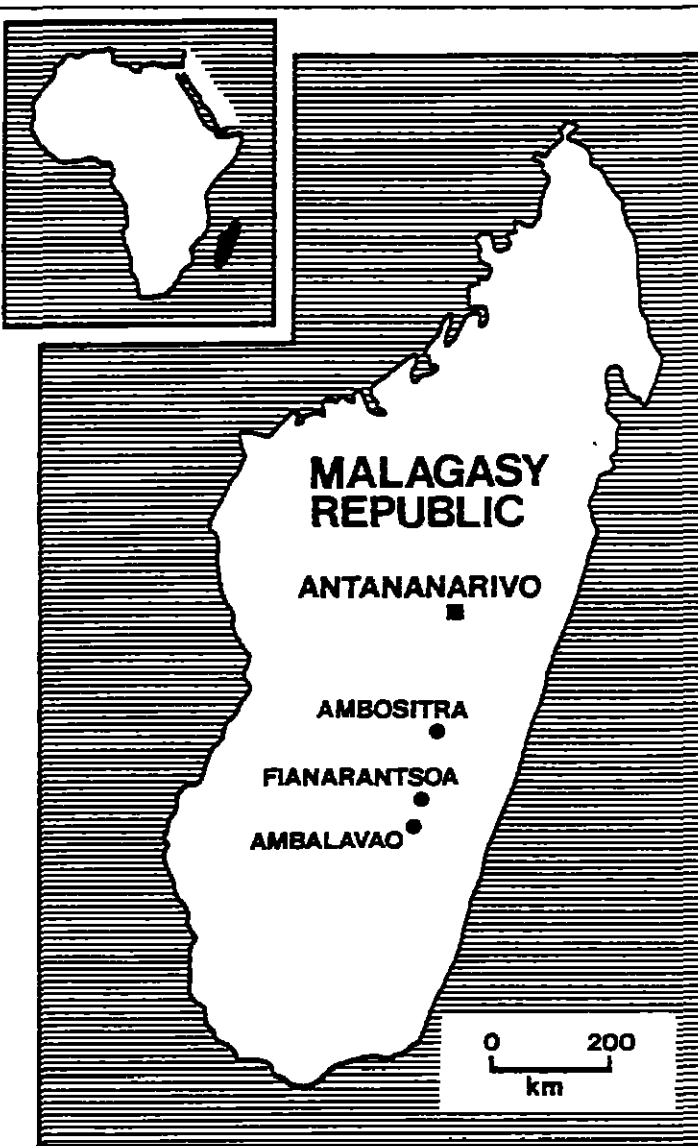
An hour's drive south of Fianarantsoa, past vineyards and neatly terraced rice fields, stands Ambalavao, Madagascar's second largest cattle market and the very heart of dahalo country. Local police report seven attacks daily in the 140 square kilometre district. They have 36 men to patrol the area, and their only vehicle is a battered car, useless on the rough roads.

"The dahalo slow down the economy, particularly in the harvest season," said a gendarme. "Peasants are pouring into town; many villages have been abandoned, and 26 schools have been closed in this district because the teachers are afraid to stay."

Police say confidentially that their work is hamstrung by local courts, who limit their powers of arrest and detention. The dahalo, they claim, have close family ties with powerful officials and, since witnesses are too frightened to testify, the dahalo are released for lack of evidence.

Others say the police force itself encourages the dahalo. "The police are not paid enough so they rent out their rifles. A policeman says, 'All right, you can borrow my rifle; give me a present and bring it back in a month.' We all know the dahalo are organised by very highly-placed individuals," said one informed source.

Until recently, cattle-raiding was customary among the nomadic tribes of the south, and young men were expected to prove their prowess in raids on their enemies. The practice had all but died out until the 1970s, when in a troubled



economy the dahalo emerged, armed with rifles in addition to the traditional spears and cutlasses.

Dahalo informants linger in the streets of the cattle-market on the look-out for local buyers or herders, who travel hundreds of kilometres to the Highland towns to sell their beasts. When night falls, the dahalo gather at the edge of the village, banging drums, blowing whistles and firing guns to unnervise their victims. Then they attack, burning huts, rounding up cattle and killing all who have not already fled.

The high season for raids begins in March with the end of the rains. Not only is the Malagasy peasant then at his richest, having harvested his rice, but the swollen rivers of the western plateau have begun to recede, allowing the dahalo to drive their plunder north without hindrance.

According to a recent report, Antananarivo needs 300 head of cattle a day to provision its pop-

ulation of 765,000 and the police are convinced the stolen herds converge on the abattoirs of the capital. But politician Monja Jaona believes that the animals are driven to the coast to be loaded at low tide on freighters bound for other islands in the Indian Ocean.

The French priest agrees: "It's obvious that the cattle are being exported, either as meat or on the hoof. One doesn't know where. Before, wherever you went you'd see cows. Now they've stolen the cows and there's no more meat. The price of meat in the market is very high because there's less of it."

Until the government makes a commitment to suppress the dahalo, life for the Malagasy rice farmer will continue to be filled with uncertainty. The police, when making their report, will only be able to write "transported to an unknown destination" — EARTHSCAN feature.

Islands for rent in Venice lagoon, rich hermits need not apply

By Philip Lullella
Reuters

VENICE, Italy — There are few pieces of property in the world more alluring than a small island in the Venice lagoon, and some of them are up for rent.

But the council of this haunting city of canals, known as the Queen of the Adriatic, has set strict conditions.

The 34 minor isles — as distinct from the tourist-tiring islands that make up Venice city centre and other major islands such as Murano, Burano, Lido and Torcello — range from tiny green octagons once used as defence outposts by the Venetian Republic to land with villas, churches and vineyards.

Reflecting their desirability, the council's decision last year to rent some of these minor islands attracted hundreds of interested enquiries.

About 50 applicants made formal proposals: a naturist group for a nudist camp, an Indian sect for a meditation centre and a Swiss student for a luxurious "house of pleasure".

"These suggestions, as well as those who wrote saying they want to retire or study alone on an island and are off course and are not even being considered," Councillor Edoardo Salzano, author of the island initiative, told Reuters in an interview.

Of the 34 minor islands, 20 are publicly owned and of these 17 are either abandoned or severely underutilised.

Last July the council effectively put these 17 up for rent on the world property market with a slick 40-page prospectus called "invitation to the islands".

They can be rented in whole or in part for periods ranging from five to 30 years, but only under certain conditions. "We have rejected the concept of a closed island," Councillor Salzano said. "One condition is that the islands could have specific uses but at least part must remain accessible to the public. They must remain part of the city."

Applicants whose proposals are accepted will have to assume all costs for restoration and maintenance of the islands, reduced to a sad state of disrepair because of neglect and vandalism. Little or no new construction will be allowed. Councillor Salzano wants coo-

rdinated proposals for the larger minor islands of San Servolo, San Clemente, Sacca Sessola and Poveglia, which are close to the centre and could be connected by extending routes of the "vaporetti", the water buses that ply the canals of Venice.

Although no elite tourism enclaves will be allowed on the islands, the council is studying proposals by the Italian Touring Club, the Centre for Student Tourism and other tourism companies to use existing buildings as hotels and hostels.

"We want to create a pool of interested tourism operators to put the islands to use for as many people as possible. This could include low-cost hostels for students as well as first class hotels on the same island," Councillor Salzano said.

The location and history of the islands, some within view of the Ducal Palace of St. Mark's square, are enticing.

Sacca Sessola, one of the largest minor islands for rent consists of 17.5 hectares of abandoned hospital buildings, gardens and vineyards.

Another is Poveglia. Used in the ninth century to house the servants of the doge of Venice and in the 18th century as a leper colony, its seven hectares include several buildings and a church.

One of the smallest lagoon islands up for rent is St. Peter's Octagon, a three hectare undeveloped dot of land once used as a defence outpost to guard one of the three "mouths" that link the lagoon to the Adriatic.

The council would like the smaller islands to be used by sports, boating and ecological groups or as part of a necklace of parks for Venetians.

Among projects it will be considering for some islands are proposals for a drug treatment centre, a tourism school and a conference and study centre for the European Green parties.

The University of Venice, pressed for space in the city centre, wants to transfer some of its departments to the islands and an American University would also like one of them.

Councillor Salzano said the council wants the islands to relieve some of the pressures of crowding from the historic centre, particularly through use as conference or congress centres.

Everton escapes with a draw from Old Trafford

LONDON (R) — While the white flag of surrender has not yet been raised over Old Trafford, Manchester United all but conceded defeat in the battle for the English soccer title Saturday.

Gordon Strachan's fifth penalty miss of the season allowed league leaders Everton to escape with a priceless 1-1 draw which left United seven points adrift, with a game more played, in third place.

Now only second-placed Tottenham appear capable of mounting a serious challenge. They won 1-0 at bottom club Stoke, striker Garth Crooks scoring against his former club, to move on to 54 points, two behind Everton.

But European Cup holders Liverpool, chasing their eighth championship triumph in 10 years, may yet pose a threat to Everton. They beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 at Anfield and although they are eight points off the pace, they are clearly a major power again.

Scottish international Strachan, top scorer at Old Trafford despite missing four of his 13 penalty attempts this season, squandered a gilt-edged opportunity to put United ahead when he suffered his fifth failure from the spot in the third minute.

And although Danish star Jesper Olsen finally shot United in front with a blistering 18-metre volley eight minutes before the interval, Everton equalised almost immediately through defender Derek Mountfield.

Everton should have inflicted even more damage on United's aspirations in the second-half when they, too, were awarded a penalty. But Irishman Kevin Sheedy caught Strachan's 'disease' and allowed goalkeeper Gary Bailey to pull off a superb save.

Liverpool, who were languishing in the relegation zone

back in October, have crept into the picture almost unnoticed and are now nagging both Everton and Tottenham like a toothache.

John Wark, who has an uncanny knack of scoring important goals, was again on target against Forest when he gave his World Cup colleague Strachan an object lesson in the art of penalty taking after Chris Fairclough had pulled down Ronnie Whelan.

Everton manager Howard Kendall, who is seeking a unique treble of League Championship, F.A. and European Cup Winners' Cups, admitted he was delighted to leave Old Trafford with a draw.

"At this stage of the season we must consider that a point won rather than two points lost," he said. "We are leaving here as league leaders and I can't complain about that."

Tottenham, who have an easier run-in than Everton in the coming weeks, struggled for long periods at Stoke where the game was played at a frenetic pace.

Only out-of-favour England midfielder Glenn Hoddle was able to stamp his class on the proceedings and he was desperately unlucky not to get his name on the scoreline in the 38th minute with a 'Michel Platini'-style curling free-kick which smacked off the post.

The all-important goal arrived in the 46th minute when Stoke goalkeeper Barry Siddall rushed out of his area to clear a through ball, completely miskicked, and left Crooks with the net at his mercy.

A missed penalty could also prove decisive in the race for the



Gordon Strachan

Scottish Premier League title.

Glasgow Celtic's teenage midfielder Peter Grant was the culprit when he, too, failed from the spot in the 0-0 draw at Dundee United which left Celtic six points behind champions Aberdeen, though they have two games in hand.

Aberdeen continued their progress with a comfortable 3-0 home win over St. Mirren. Billy Stark, signed from St. Mirren when Strachan moved to Manchester United last June, opened the scoring in the 27th minute and Eric Black and Ian Cowan raised the tally to three after the interval.

Glasgow Rangers emerged from their recent slump by beating Dumbarton 3-1 at home with goals from Ally McCoist (two) and Iain Ferguson... the first time Rangers had scored more than two goals since December.

That victory lifted Rangers above Dundee United into third place but with little hope of making up the 11-point gap on Aberdeen.

Olympics to allow soccer, tennis, hockey professionals

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Professional ice hockey, tennis and soccer players under the age of 23 will be allowed to play in the 1988 Olympics. International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said.

"The Olympic movement must go with the times," he told a press conference in Calgary Friday. He was visiting to review plans for the 1988 Winter Games being staged here.

He said the new rules, which must be formally approved by the IOC's 91 members at a June meeting in East Berlin, will only apply to Calgary and the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, South Korea.

"After 1988, we will see," Samaranch told reporters.

The new rules, based on recommendations from the three international sports federations, mean ice hockey, soccer and tennis professionals who have not reached their 23rd birthday by the

February 13 starting date of the Calgary Olympics will be eligible.

The games are to be held in the middle of the north American professional ice hockey season, and National Hockey League President John Ziegler said: "I'd be surprised if any player on a regular roster would play in the 1988 Olympics."

Murray Castello, President of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Federation, welcomed the decision but said he wished National Hockey League players of any age could compete. The game's superstar, Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers team, is 24.

Olympic organizers gave high ratings during their Calgary stay to the Saddledome, one of the main venues for the Winter Games, but warned that Mount Allan, the controversial site for the Blue Riband downhill races, might not be a feasible site.

McEnroe reaches semi-finals

HOUSTON (R) — Top-seeded John McEnroe defeated fellow American Brad Gilbert, the sixth seed, 6-3, 6-3 in a 60-minute match Friday night to reach the semi-finals of the \$300,000 Houston tennis tournament.

Second-seeded Kevin Curren of South Africa also advanced, knocking out the number-five seed, Tim Mayotte of the United States, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

McEnroe had an easier time in his match as he overpowered Gilbert with service winners and passing shots.

"You get nervous playing against him," Gilbert said. "He psyches you out because of who he is."

McEnroe, who has been critical of his lack of concentration in this tournament, felt better Friday night.

"I concentrated better and that's half the battle, the movement and concentration are the two most important things," he said.

McEnroe will play his doubles partner, Peter Fleming of the United States, in the semi-final match.

Bramble may lose WBA crown over stimulant use

LAS VEGAS (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight champion Livingstone Bramble used a banned drug in his title defence against Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and should be stripped of his crown, a WBA official said Saturday.

"This is very, very serious," Murray Sleep, the WBA's North American representative, told Reuters.

"I was originally told the drug was a decongestant, but Canadian physicians tell me it is also a muscle strengthener and brain stimulant. From this information my personal opinion is that it's much stronger than just a decongestant."

Traces of the drug Ephedrine/Pseudo Ephedrine were discovered Friday by the Nevada State Athletic Commission when urine sample tests taken after the February 16 bout in Reno, Nevada, were returned from the laboratory.

A ruling on whether the WBA lightweight championship should be declared vacant could come as early as next week from Panama or Venezuela, Sleep said by telephone from his home in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

At a rules meeting in Reno on February 15, Sleep said: "It's my recommendation that if the champion's specimen is positive and he won't fight that the title be declared vacant."

Sleep said Friday he was still of that opinion and that two other high-ranking WBA officials present at that meeting — Dr. Elias Cordova, chairman of the WBA championship committee, and Alberto Aleman, WBA international coordinator — agreed.

"This is a violation of rule 16," Sleep said. "I expect the five-member executive committee to be polled and my original recommendation of declaring the title vacant to be upheld."

Sleep said he has forwarded the test information sent to him by Nevada State Deputy Attorney General (prosecutor) Susan Johnson to Cordova in Panama and would talk with him about the findings by telephone on Sunday.

The laboratory report presented to the Nevada Commission Friday described the drug as "an over-the-counter, non-prescription drug which is a mild stimulant to the nervous system found in cold medications and allergy medicine."

England knocks none of the individuality out of Six

By Robert Woodward
Reuters

LONDON — Didier Six followed his smart track-suited teammates out of the Aston Villa coach dressed in an ageing sweater and faded jeans.

After five months as the first Frenchman in English soccer, the international winger has lost none of the individuality which has thrilled fans for 10 years — but driven a long line of officials to distraction.

Six can lay claim to the title of Europe's most travelled soccer player — before Villa he played for five French clubs, Cercle Brugge of Belgium and Stuttgart of West Germany.

But his success at international level — two World Cups and a European Championship winners' medal — has never been mirrored at his many clubs, and Six's reputation as France's 'enfant terrible' has followed him wherever he played.

His career at Villa appears to have taken a familiar course — a tremendous start followed by a noticeable decline — but Six insists that he is happy with the club and has needed time to change his style.

"I've looked around and realised I must change my game. It's more physical than in France and the ball travels much quicker from one penalty area to the other," Six told Reuters.

Six agrees he is lucky to be playing in England at all. His previous club, second division Middlesbrough, could no longer afford his skills and only Villa were prepared to take him on.

The Frenchman became an English favourite overnight. In his first televised game against Manchester United he outlasted England fullback Mike Duxbury and created Villa's first goal in a 3-0 win with a perfect cross to England's Peter Withe.

But the honeymoon only lasted a month. After a series of poor performances Six was criticised by Villa manager Graham Turner for his apparently desultory approach to the game.

"On the evidence of today's game it is proving very difficult to integrate Didier into the team," Turner said.

The headline writers had a field day — "Didi at Six's and seven's" — and the long-haired winger experienced further problems when he injured his big toe in December which required an operation.

Since then Six has been unable to find a place in an improving Villa side, but he firmly believes that he is now in a fit state to renew his acquaintance with English soccer.

"I've come back well after missing a lot of matches, it's taken me two months to get over my injury and the antibiotics, and I've also finally found how I should be playing in England," Six said before last Saturday's game with West Ham.

The decision caused an uproar. Karpov, whose endurance seemed to be flagging, was leading 5-3 and needed only one more game to retain his title. But Karpov had just won his first three games and claimed a pause benefited the champion.

Saturday Karpov said he had never favoured the 'limitless match' system whereby the first player to reach six games won, with draws not counting.

He said the rule, adopted in 1974 at the insistence of Bobby Fischer, then the World Champion, was never approved by Soviet chess officials but was strongly backed by FIDE representatives and by Campomanes himself.

Talking about the progress of his match against Kasparov, Karpov said he felt he had missed several chances of hanging on to the title after he reached his 5-0 lead.

Despite these surprises Six said he is enjoying the English way of life, adding he has been able to adapt to the Aston Villa set-up, and his teammates, quicker than any of his previous clubs.

He spent the first month living in a hotel but he has now moved into a house in Villa's home city of Birmingham with his wife and two children.

As to the future, Six refuses to be drawn on whether his contract with Villa will be extended but says it up to him to make the decision at the end of March.

His attitude may cause problems because Turner insisted the decision is the manager's, although he added that Six is still very much part of the first team set-up.

Six, capped 52 times, is more valuable about his international future which appeared to have ended when Henri Michel took over as French manager in the summer.

"I have to make a positive impression... I'm not finished with the French team and I would like to be in Mexico for my third World Cup next year," said 30-year-old Six, omitted from France's three qualifying games this season.

Born in Lille, Six was first capped by France in 1976 when playing for Valenciennes.

He scored 13 goals for France, the last in May 1983, but for a while he was remembered for the "goal" he missed against West Germany in the 1982 World Cup semifinal in Spain.

Locked at 3-3 after extra time, Six's penalty was saved by goalkeeper Harald Schuhmacher, allowing West Germany through to the final where they lost 3-1 to Italy.

But the nation forgave this error — "I have lost it for France" — was all he could mutter after the game — when Six, one of very few French players to be capped while playing for a second division side, helped his country win the European title, their first major trophy.

Despite his omission from the French team and his problems at Villa, the Chevalier of the national order of merit, an honour granted him last week, believes he still has a future.

"I would like to end my career in France but that won't be for a while yet. It's up to me to prove myself."

The rituals before an English game also took a little getting used to.

Six said he was astonished how the team assembled only an hour beforehand — whereas in France the team is 'locked away' the day prior to a big game — and totally bemused when some of the players then proceeded to take a

nap.

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Drugs affair overshadows European athletics victories

ATHENS (R) — The cloud of a fresh drugs affair hung over the triumphs of Czechoslovak Helena Fibingerova and Soviet Galina Chistjakova on the opening day of the European Indoor Athletics Championships Saturday.

Six members of the Greek team were withdrawn before the opening session after evidence that they had taken performance-enhancing drugs had come to light, the Greek Sports Federation said.

Four of the six, who include one woman, are Greek record holders

and all face probable life bans if the results of the dope tests carried out at an athletics meeting here last month are confirmed by laboratory tests in Rome.

The Greek athletes involved are Sotirios Tefas (60 metres), Georgios Tsiandas (60 metres hurdles), Dimitrios Mihas (triple jump), Dimitrios Koutsoukis (shot) and Dimitrios Katis (high jump) and Elizabeth Pandazi (60 metres hurdles).

All were dope tested at the magnificent

purpose built stadium here on 16-17 February and sources said that the federation acted after being advised of the results of the tests.

Greek athletics were rocked last year when their only European Champion, javelin thrower Anna Verouli, was banned for life after a positive dope test at the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The news of the Greeks' absence broke minutes before the first event began and overshadowed the record eighth gold medal won by Fibingerova in the women's shot.

The massive 35-year-old Czechoslovak, who captured her first European indoor title in 1973, won Saturday's competition with a put of 20.84 metres.

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Partial Star Wars success good enough, Reagan says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan said Saturday even a partially effective "Star Wars" anti-missile defence would be enough to keep the peace and enhance prospects for U.S. and Soviet nuclear arms reductions.

The controversial Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) research programme, commonly known as "Star Wars", provided "the most hopeful possibility of our time," he said.

Mr. Reagan, addressing critics who have charged that the futuristic system would not work, said even if SDI were "say, 80 per cent effective, then it would make any Soviet attack fool."

"Even partial success in SDI would strengthen deterrence and keep the peace.... If our SDI research is successful the prospects for real reduction in U.S. and Soviet offensive nuclear forces will be greatly enhanced," he told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

The United States and the Soviet Union resume arms control talks in Geneva on March 12 with the Star Wars plan looming as a possible roadblock, Moscow is bitterly opposed to the programme and Mr. Reagan has said it will not become a bargaining chip.

"SDI has been criticised on the grounds that it might upset any chance of arms control agreement ... but SDI is arms control," Mr. Reagan said.

Mr. Reagan also reaffirmed U.S. support for anti-government guerrillas in Nicaragua, calling them "the moral equivalent of our founding fathers" and appealed for help in persuading Congress to approve \$14 million in funding for them.

"I am against sending troops to Central America. They are simply not needed. Given a chance and the resources the people of the area can fight their own fight," he said.

Mr. Reagan and other U.S. officials have said the U.S. funds are critical to the so-called "Contras" if the leftist Sandinist government in Managua is to be prevented from consolidating its power.

"We cannot turn away from them. For the struggle here is not right versus left but right versus wrong," he said.

Meanwhile NATO's top military officer told Congress Friday that the administration of Mr. Reagan needs to do a better job of explaining its Star Wars proposal to America's European allies.

The appeal by Gen. Bernard Rogers came as Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security

adviser to former President Jimmy Carter, said the opposition Democratic Party is making a mistake if it blindly opposes Mr. Reagan's plan.

Mr. Reagan has called for intense research into a space-based defence against any Soviet nuclear attack, arguing that such an umbrella could end superpower reliance on the current nuclear doctrine of assured destruction.

The Pentagon budget calls for spending \$2.7 billion next year on research into the project.

"There is still considerable confusion in Europe over what SDI is," Gen. Rogers told the Senate Armed Services Committee. He added that the problem is that "there are many voices trying to describe it.... There is no single voice."

But he predicted that initial allied scepticism eventually will turn to support as long as other NATO nations are consulted and the eventual deployment of any system follows terms of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

The chief fear in Europe, Gen. Rogers said, is that both the United States and the Soviets will develop a missile defence, leaving Western Europe vulnerable.

Still, he added, U.S. allies "are starting to say ... let's let the research go on."

Later, Mr. Brzezinski told the Armed Services Nuclear Forces

Subcommittee that while he initially was sceptical about Mr. Reagan's proposal, he now believes a limited type of defence is technically feasible.

Such a system could offer U.S. nuclear missile sites enough protection to deter a Soviet attack by sowing uncertainty in the minds of Soviet war planners that a nuclear first strike could succeed in wiping out U.S. weapons, he said.

Many leading Democrats have opposed Star Wars. Mr. Brzezinski noted, but the party "would be making a mistake" if it limits its nuclear debate to trying to choose between a nuclear freeze and the concept of minimum deterrence, which calls for building the fewest possible atomic weapons to deter attack.

"We genuinely need a bipartisan approach" to the defence questions raised by scientific advances which make a Star Wars system technically feasible, he said.

Mr. Brzezinski said that while he was in Mr. Carter's administration, he didn't support much spending on ABM research because "it still seemed there was a route open toward arms control."

But with both sides rushing ahead with new systems and no agreements in sight, the next best alternative is development of a missile defence, Mr. Brzezinski told the panel.



Utah Sen. Jake Garn shows off a fluid mixing experiment he was supposed to do during his four-day space mission aboard shuttle Challenger which was cancelled because of problems with two satellites (AP wirephoto)

Shuttle flight cancelled

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Next week's planned launch of space shuttle Challenger with U.S. Senator Jake Garn and a French astronaut as passengers has been cancelled because of problems with two \$100-million satellites, NASA has announced.

The space agency said it will combine some features of the mission with those of another flight that had been scheduled March 22, which also will be delayed because of the need to outfit the shuttle Discovery for a Canadian communications satellite that was to have flown on the cancelled journey.

That could delay the new, combined mission until April.

The problems are in two satellites — one already in space and one in the Challenger's cargo bay.

NASA believes there is a problem with devices aboard the tracking and data relay satellites that encode secret signals being relayed between ground stations and military shuttle flights. The space agency refused to be specific about the problems, saying that is classified information.

"The TDRS spacecraft has encryption devices installed to protect the system from interfering signals," NASA said. "It is therefore impossible to provide further technical detail regarding the problem without exposing the nature of the protection system."

NASA said it would select a launch date and name a crew for the combined flight aboard Discovery sometime next week. NASA could not say whether Sen. Garn will be aboard that mission, however, if precedent is followed he would be on the flight.

Patrick Baudry, the first French astronaut assigned to fly on an American spaceship, also was to have been part of the seven-member crew for next week's flight. Sen. Garn, a Utah Republican, was to have flown as a congressional observer in his role as chairman of an appropriations subcommittee that oversees NASA spending.

During the flight, the crew was to deploy the TDRS-B and a Canadian communications satellite, as well as conduct French and American medical experiments.

Gromyko returns to Moscow

MADRID (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko flew back to Moscow Saturday after a three-day official visit to Spain, during which he launched a fresh barrage of criticism against President Reagan's "Star Wars" arms project.

Mr. Gromyko said at a lunch given by Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran Friday that the possibility of nuclear war would not be an exaggeration if the arms race were allowed to spread into outer space.

In a reference to Mr. Reagan's plans to deploy anti-missile systems in space, he added: "Projects to achieve military supremacy will not materialise either on earth or outer space."

He said his talks with Mr. Moran, Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos had mainly dealt with ways to prevent the militarisation of space, to contain the arms race and avert nuclear war.

After their second round of talks Friday, which lasted like the day before for two-and-a-half hours, Mr. Moran said they had also talked about the Middle East and Central America.

Spanish officials said they were delighted that Mr. Gromyko had played down Moscow's criticism of Spain's decision to remain in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Mr. Moran said there was no pressure or recrimination when NATO membership, on which a referendum is due next year, was raised.

The Soviet minister's visit was the first high-level contact between Madrid and Moscow since Mr. Gonzalez decided to reverse his party's policy and keep Spain in the alliance.

It also provided Mr. Gromyko with an opportunity to restate Moscow's position before Soviet-U.S. arms control talks starting in Geneva on March 12.

Mr. Gromyko told reporters the Russians were going to Geneva in search of peace but the outcome did not depend on Moscow alone.

COLUMN

Taylor holds party for Burton's family

LONDON (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor threw a Welsh party to celebrate St. David's Day with the friends and family of Richard Burton, her ex-husband and Wales' most famous actor. Guests at London's exclusive Dorchester Hotel marked the national holiday with a variety of traditional dishes: Leek soup, Welsh lamb, griddle scones, and cheese and sausages from Caerphilly and Glamorgan in south Wales. Taylor, who was twice married to Burton, celebrated her 53rd birthday in London this week. Burton died last year.

Medals from Everest flight auctioned

LONDON (R) — Medals awarded to an eccentric millionaire who helped finance the first plane flight over Mount Everest have fetched more than five times their expected price at a London auction. Dame Fanny Houston was awarded the silver medals in 1933 for her part in providing funds for two small aircraft in the first flight over the world's highest peak, at that time unscalable. The London auction house Sotheby's expected the medals to go for about £350 (£385), but the Royal Air Force Museum in London paid £1,760 (£1,936). The Times of London newspaper issued the medals, which went missing in 1936, the year Houston died, but were unexpectedly discovered on a London market stall nearly 30 years later. An actress in her youth, Houston inherited £7 million (\$7.7 million) when her third husband died.

Man who had wrong kidney removed wins \$4.6 million

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 64-year-old businessman, Harry Jordan, who said doctors mistakenly removed his healthy kidney instead of a diseased one, was awarded \$4.6 million damages. "I've lost my life — there is no amount of money that can replace that," Jordan, who is confined to a wheelchair and wears a body brace, told reporters. Jordan, who was a member of the governing board of Long Beach Community Hospital, where he underwent the operation in November 1982, said doctors found a large tumour on one of his kidneys, but the healthy kidney instead of the diseased one was removed. "My life has become one of pain, pills and medical visits," Jordan said. A superior court jury found four doctors negligent in the case.

Kirk Douglas, Gina Lollobrigida receive awards

PARIS (AP) — Film stars Kirk Douglas and Gina Lollobrigida received awards from Culture Minister Jack Lang for their contribution to the cinema. Douglas was awarded the Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by Mr. Lang who said the American actor was "not only one of the greatest contemporary actors, but also one of those that the public of our country knows and appreciates the best." In awarding Miss Lollobrigida the Officer of Arts and Letters, Mr. Lang said the decoration was "the logical result of a long history of love between France and her." "With more than 60 films, you have conquered the world, you have imposed an example of success by nobility, the refusal of all compromise."

Palace may rent out apartments

LONDON (AP) — The wealthy may be able to set up house in a genuine royal palace outside London, according to a proposal reported by British newspapers. The Times and the Daily Telegraph said the government was considering the idea of renting out some of the apartments in 1,000-room Hampton Court Palace, for centuries the home of kings and queens. They said a dozen units granted by the crown to widows of distinguished military men and diplomats were empty and could be converted into luxury homes and put on the real estate market. Hampton Court, on the Thames River 20 kilometres from central London, was built in the 16th Century. The last monarch to live there permanently was George II, in 1760. The palace and its magnificent grounds attract more than half a million tourists annually. But tourism revenue covers only one-third of the £300-million (\$324-million) annual cost of upkeep.

Shultz, Ortega hold talks

MONTEVIDEO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saturday and said afterwards he hoped the "Contadora" Central America peace initiative would continue.

Mr. Shultz told reporters he had repeated the U.S. position on Nicaragua to Mr. Ortega, telling him Washington wanted a reduction in the military strength built up by the Sandinist government and a return to what he called full democracy.

The meeting between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Ortega, both in Montevideo for the inauguration Friday of Julio Sanguinetti as Uruguay's new civilian president, was the first high-level contact between the two sides since Washington broke off talks in January.

Mr. Shultz said the release of Nicaraguan student Jorge Urbina Lara, at the centre of a diplomatic

row between Managua and Costa Rica, was long overdue. He hoped it would lead to a resumption of the Contadora initiative.

Nicaragua said Friday it would release Urbina Lara, whose detention after he sought refuge in Costa Rica's Managua embassy prompted a Costa Rican boycott of Contadora meetings.

U.S.-Nicaraguan relations deteriorated further last week when President Reagan said he favoured the removal of what he called the cruel and brutal Sandinist administration.

Nicaraguan Information Minister Manuel Espinosa said earlier that Mr. Ortega would explain his latest conciliation offer during the meeting with Mr. Shultz, which U.S. sources said was sought by Nicaragua.

Mr. Ortega said on Wednesday that Nicaragua would send home Cuban military advisers.

Lange accuses U.S. over nuclear weapons

OXFORD, England (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, under fire from Britain and the United States for his anti-nuclear policy, Saturday accused the U.S. of trying to force his country to accept nuclear weapons in its territory.

"To compel an ally to accept nuclear weapons against the wishes of that ally is to take the moral position of totalitarianism which allows no self-determination," he told Oxford University's 162-year-old debating society, the Oxford Union.

The Union, Britain's most famous debating chamber after parliament, gave him a standing ovation.

Mr. Lange, speaking in favour of the motion that nuclear weapons were morally indefensible, has incurred the wrath of Washington and the displeasure of

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by refusing to allow nuclear warships into New Zealand waters.

The move has cast doubts over the future of the ANZUS defence alliance linking the U.S., Australia and New Zealand.

The debate, broadcast live in the United States, ended with the Union approving the motion by 298 votes to 250.

Mr. Lange said New Zealand had been told by some officials of the Reagan administration that it was to be made to pay for its actions. "We are in fact going to be made an example of. We are going to be ostracised," he said.

"For our probation, we are going to be kept there until we are compelled to resume our seat in the great circle of the nuclear theatre," he added.

Britons say U.K. more divided under Thatcher

LONDON (R) — A majority of Britons believe their country has become more divided under the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, according to an opinion poll published Saturday.

Dissatisfaction with Mrs. Thatcher's policies and her handling

of social and economic problems, has helped the opposition Labour Party to surge ahead of the government in popularity, the Mori Poll conducted for London's commercial television showed.

Two-thirds of those asked in the poll said Britain had become more divided under Mrs. Thatcher.

Pakistan to hang one hijack helper

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's military government has commuted death sentences on three men convicted of aiding a 1981 plane hijacking but a fourth man is due to hang, the condemned man's lawyer said Saturday.

Nasir Baluch, who denied charges of helping hijackers to buy tickets for a Pakistani airliner they commandeered to Kabul and Damascus, would be executed next week, lawyer Shafi Mohammad said.

The other three, Ayub Malik, Saifullah Khalid and Issa Baluch, had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment. Mr. Mohammad said. A fifth man, Rasool Bux, was jailed for 14 years.

The sentences, which stemmed from the 1981 hijacking by the

outlawed opposition group Al-Zulfikar led by two sons of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, aroused international concern when they were announced last November.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International appealed to martial law President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to commute the death sentences and allow an open court to rehear the case tried by a special military court.

Amnesty, opposition politicians and lawyers and the Karachi-based National Council for Civil Liberties claimed the four were wrongly implicated in the hijacking and sentenced by a court which flouted its own procedures by revising its sentences.

The court, which sat in a Karachi jail, originally sentenced

Nasir Baluch to death and the four others to long prison terms in September 1983, according to court documents made available by defence lawyers.

The then military governor of Sind province did not confirm the sentences for lack of evidence, but his successor did and sent them to Gen. Zia for approval.

After Gen. Zia failed to approve them, the governor withdrew his earlier confirmation and sent them back to court, which then sentenced three more men to death, the documents showed.

Defence lawyers said these sentences were invalid because the Pakistan Army Act governing military trials says sentences cannot be revised or withdrawn once confirmed.

Pol Pot: Vietnamese offensive failed

BANGKOK (R) — Kampuchean guerrilla leader Pol Pot says insurgents have killed or wounded up to 8,000 Vietnamese soldiers in Kampuchea since November, Khmer Rouge Radio reported Saturday in a rare mention — though only by title — of its top military commander.

Pol Pot, widely blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Kampuchians during his period of rule from 1975 to 1979, called

Hanoi's current dry season counter-guerrilla campaign in western Kampuchea a failure, the radio said.

"Vietnam's aim is to destroy our battlefield commanders, our forces, our supply stocks and cut our transportation routes. But all of Vietnam's evil aims have been defeated," Khmer Rouge Radio, monitored here, quoted its military chief as saying.

The broadcast referred to the

former Kampuchean premier not by name but only by his current title of supreme commander of the Khmer Rouge's estimated 30,000 to 40,000 fighters.

In a battlefield situation report dated Feb. 28, Pol Pot said Vietnam had little success but suffered heavy personnel and material losses while trying to chase the Khmer Rouge from western border sanctuaries, the radio reported.

Military rule returns to Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Tough military rule has returned and political activity has been frozen again in Bangladesh, an impoverished nation of 90 million people still searching for democracy after 13 years of political turmoil.

Military President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, in power for three years, announced Friday night he would hold a referendum on March 21 to seek national approval for continuing his rule until a civilian government could be formed.

He banned all political activity, closed the country's six universities, imposed a five-hour curfew on Dhaka and reappointed senior army generals as martial law administrators in five zones.

Many politicians belonging to the main opposition parties were not available for comment. Family sources said they were hiding to avoid possible arrest.

The two main leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, were at home but aides said they would not speak to the press.

"We are back again at square one," said one diplomat who believed the return of democracy would be delayed for an ind-

efinite period. Bangladesh, created from East Pakistan after the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, has been plagued with problems and violence from its inception.

Its first president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed with most of his family in a bloody military coup in 1975.

His successor, Ziaur Rahman, a military man turned politician, seemed to be putting the country on the right track when he was assassinated in an abortive military mutiny.

Then came civilian rule under President Abdus Sattar, a former judge. But he was overthrown in March, 1982, by Gen. Ershad who said he would rid the country of corruption and restore democracy in two years.

He took initiatives early last year to gradually return to civilian rule, but also helped to launch a new political party, the Janadala, to promote his political objectives.

Gen. Ershad has announced dates for parliamentary elections four times, but each time abandoned his plans because opposition parties, claiming he would manipulate the results in his fav-

our, said they would boycott the polls.

Gen. Ershad subsequently took elaborate measures to give military government a neutral image.

He removed all political ministers from his cabinet last month, dismantled the martial law apparatus, abolished military courts and pledged that he would stay completely neutral in parliamentary elections set for April 6.

"This was the most unprecedented concession given by any military ruler in the world's history," Ataur Rahman Khan, a former prime minister, told Reuters.

"Parliamentary elections would have brought democracy back and sent the military to the barracks in a most peaceful manner."

But the opposition parties still said they felt Gen. Ershad was not sincere in his commitment. They wanted him to clearly state that he had no political ambitions.

"Enough is enough. My sincerity about democracy was totally misunderstood. They thought it was my weakness," Gen. Ershad said in his broadcast Friday night.

At least three killed in Indian election violence

NEW DELHI (R) — At least three people were shot dead Saturday in the eastern state of Bihar during voting for four Indian state assemblies that will show whether Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi still commands widespread popularity.

All India Radio, reporting the deaths, said security forces in Bihar were given shoot-on-sight orders for dealing with troublemakers.

Indian newspapers said Saturday polling had been postponed in several constituencies following the killing of at least 12 candidates in pre-election violence so far. More than 400 people have been injured, the papers reported.

Morning polling was brisk in the elections for 338 seats held Saturday, the radio said. A further 1,580 constituencies vote on Tuesday.

The results from both days are expected to be announced on

March 5 and 6. India's Chief Election Commissioner R.K. Trivedi said.

In separate parts of Bihar Saturday, two men standing outside a polling booth were shot dead and a 12-year-old boy was killed when a policeman accidentally opened fire on him.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said polling was suspended at three booths in Bihar when authorities found all the votes had been cast before the polls opened. The officials involved were arrested, it added.

PTI said police in Bihar seized a car found to contain 18 guns and 40 cartridges and arrested three men, one of them a police sergeant.

Mr. Gandhi, whose Congress (I) Party won an overwhelming four-fifths majority in parliamentary polls in December, has campaigned nationwide for the state elections.

Zimbabwean forces clamp down on provincial town

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's security forces Saturday clamped down on Bulawayo, capital of troubled Matabeleland province, cordoning off the predominantly black western townships, residents said Saturday.

The residents, contacted by Reuters by telephone, said the centre of the city was virtually deserted with troops allowing only a trickle of workers out of the closed-off area.

The operation began before dawn with troops moving into position in convoys of trucks.

The action is similar to previous security operations in the south western city, main powerbase of chief opposition leader Joshua Nkomo, which have preceded sweeps through the townships in search of suspected dissidents.

Mr. Nkomo arrived in Bulawayo Friday to attend funeral services Saturday for five officials of the minority United African National Council (UANC) murdered in the north western town of Hwange last Sunday.

UANC leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa also arrived in Bulawayo Friday. There was no immediate word on their whereabouts.

The action cast doubt on whether the funeral services, scheduled for a cemetery in the western townships, would be able to go ahead.

But some similar operations in the past have ended by midday and life in the city quickly returned to normal.

No government comment on

the operation was immediately forthcoming and senior government spokesmen were not available. They were attending a conference of the ruling ZANU-PF Party conference in the town of Kadoma, 100 kilometres south west of Harare.

Matabeleland has been the scene of widespread security operations during the past two years against rebels who have killed several hundred government officials, farmers and villagers.

The government says that the rebels are ZAPU loyalists, a charge that Mr. Nkomo denies. A helicopter equipped with a "sky shower" loudspeaker hovered over the townships as the operation began, telling people that movement in and out of the area was now controlled and advising them to stay in their homes.

A person who answered the telephone at Mr. Nkomo's home inside the sealed-off area, said he had gone out but did not know where.

Diplomatic sources said the operation was an anti-dissident drive, adding that a recent increase in armed robbery in the western suburbs indicated a number of rebels may have moved into the townships from their normal hideouts in remote bush areas.

They added that several thousand troops and police were taking part in the operation.

Several Bulawayo businesses contacted by telephone said virtually none of their staff had reported for work Saturday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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LEAD FROM THE RIGHT

Both vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♦ Q63
♦ A753
♦ AK8

WEST EAST
♦ 5 ♦ J1092
♦ KQ10 ♦ J9642
♦ J964 ♦ 1053
♦ J9754 ♦ 6

SOUTH
♦ AK874
♦ 8
♦ Q72
♦ KQ102

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of 7.

We are frequently asked to give one tip that would improve a person's play of the hand. Those who ask seem to expect some magical formula, and they are often disappointed by this simple piece of advice: "Whenever possible, make a defender commit himself before you play a key card to a trick." Declarer adopted that principle to bring home a slam contract on this hand.

North-South bid sensibly to a

slam in spades. After South jumped in spades, North bid four diamonds to show his concentration of strength while at the same time confirming spades as trumps. South bid what he thought he could make.

West led the king of hearts, won in dummy. Had trumps been 3-2, declarer would have been playing for an overtrick, so he rashed the ace and queen of trumps. West's club discard on the second round was a disappointment. Now declarer had a sure trump lower, and he had to worry about his fourth club as well.

Since East was the danger hand, declarer planned his plays in the club suit so that East had to play before he did. He cashed the ace of clubs and continued with a low club from dummy. Since if he would be squandering his trump trick if he ruffed, East shuffled a diamond.

Declarer won the queen of clubs, crossed back to the table with a diamond and led another club. East was again faced with a losing option. Once more he decided to discard rather than ruff. Now declarer won the king of clubs and ruffed his last club in dummy. Whether East overruffed or not, he could score no more than one trump trick.

Jeff in 10